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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

After you buy a new computer, what do you do with the old one?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

7 DAYS until Sept. 16, when Aggreko generators are to start working

INSIDE

Hurricane Ike

Hurricane Ike roared onto Cuba after destroying houses and worsening floods in Haiti that have already killed more than 300 people.

WORLD...Page 16

Comeback

It took a year, but Britney Spears got the comeback she was seeking from the MTV Video Music Awards.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

Zoning officials warn against bribery. **PAGE 3**

Diabetes summit gathers Pacific health officials. **PAGE 7**

4 schools remain closed

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

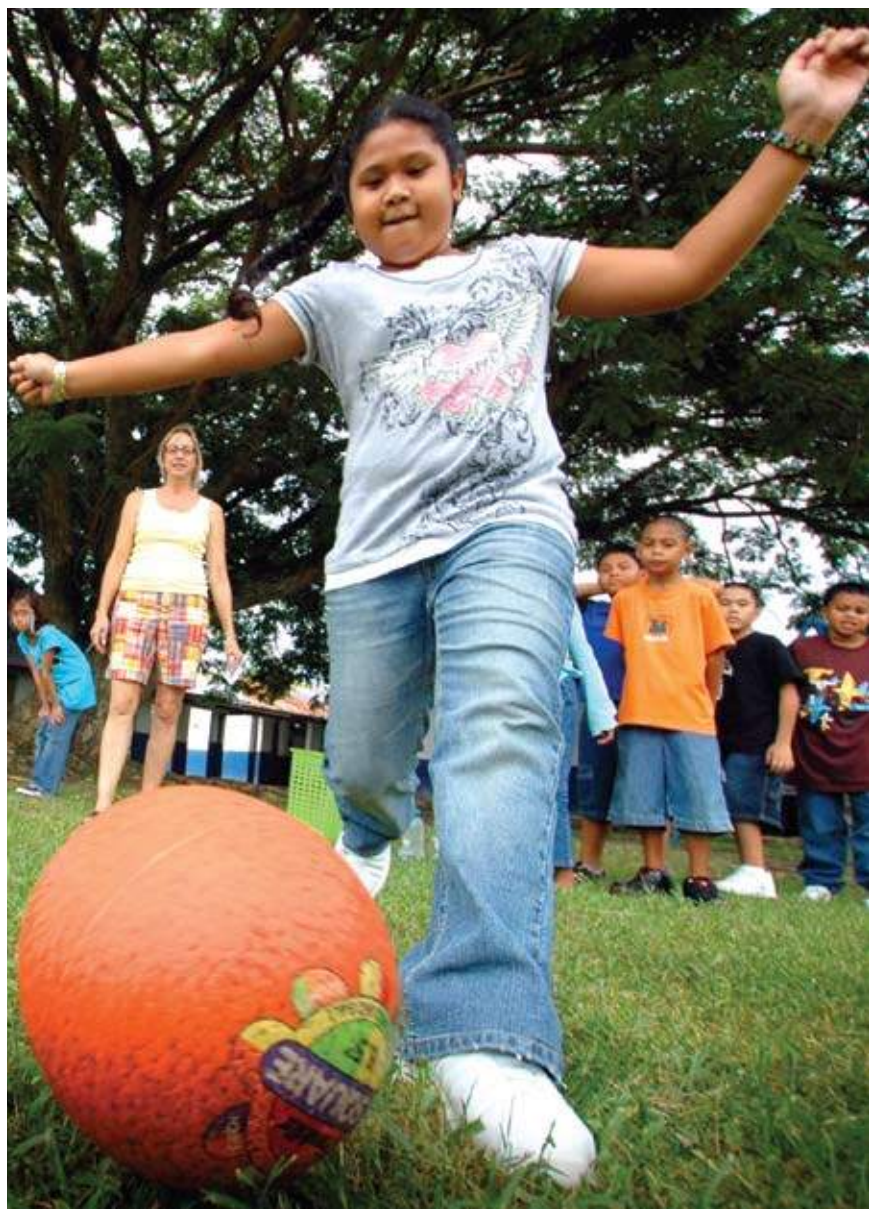
AFFECTED SCHOOLS
- Marianas High School
- Kagman Elementary School
- Koblerville Elementary School
- Oleai Head Start

Four schools will remain closed today because samples testing water quality will not be ready until this morning.

Gov. Benigno Fitial signed a state of disaster emergency Sunday night, forcing Marianas High School, Kagman Elementary School, Koblerville Elementary School, and Oleai Head Start to delay their opening until the schools pass the water quality tests.

"The staff of the Department of Public Health has determined that the staff and students of the affected schools would

See 4 SCHOOLS on Page 4



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Third grade students of Mrs. Thorpe at the Garapan Elementary School participate in an exercise activity called "All Run Kick Ball" inside the school grounds during their first day of classes yesterday.

Opening went 'smoothly' for other schools

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Although four were ordered to remain closed until further notice, the first day back was successful for the remaining schools, said Education Commissioner Rita Sablan.

Sablan spent the first day visiting the secondary schools in the district.

"I'm very pleased with outcome of secondary schools," she said. "And I did not see any concerns at the elementary schools."

The opening of Tinian's and Rota's schools also went well, she added.

The schools were able to handle the power out-

See OPENING on Page 4

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

The first grade students of Ms. Mendez at the Garapan Elementary School take notes during their first day of class yesterday.

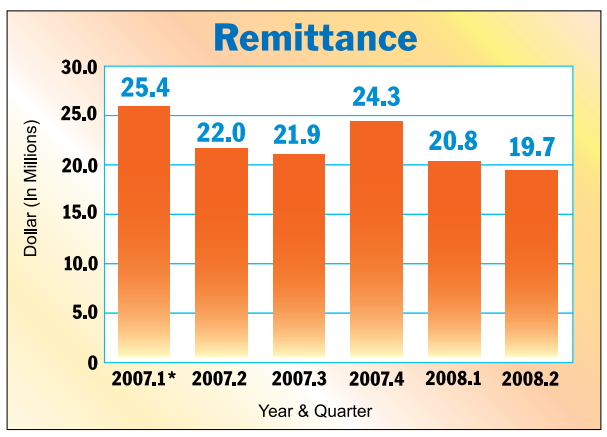
Less money leaving the CNMI

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

More money is staying in the CNMI as the level of remittance—the sending of money to places outside of the local economy—continues to drop, a trend some local officials say might be linked to a decline in the size of the foreign workforce or in the number of jobs open to foreign workers.

According to the second quarter economic report issued by the Department of Commerce Friday,

See LESS on Page 4



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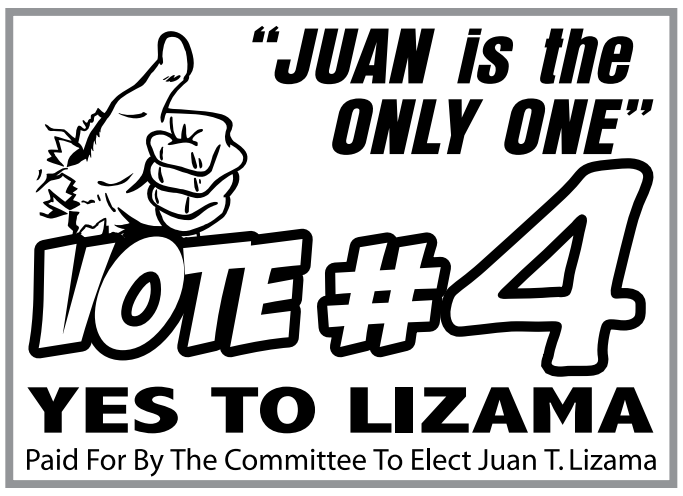

Mother of boy hit by car sues driver

A mother has filed a lawsuit on behalf of her son who was injured after a vehicle hit him while he was on a bicycle in San Antonio.

Mercedes Denora sued the driver, Ji Eun Kim, for negligence.

Denora asked the Superior Court to order Kim to pay her damages for her son's past and future medical expenses, mental anguish and physical suffering.

Attorney Eric S. Smith stated in the complaint that on Sept. 22, 2006 at 3:15pm, Kim was driving a 1998 Toyota sedan on the parking lot of the Alpex Wholesale Building in San Antonio.

Smith said that, at the same time, Denora's son, a minor, was riding his bicycle in the parking lot.

The lawyer said Kim negligently backed her vehicle, hitting the boy with great force and violence.

The impact, Smith said, caused extensive internal and external injuries and severe shock to the boy.

As a result of the injuries, he said, the child had to be hospitalized and undergo surgery and other medical treatment.

"After defendant discovered that [the minor] occupied a position of peril, she failed to use ordinary care and failed to exercise all of the means within her control to avoid hitting [him]," Smith said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

MARINE MONUMENT PUBLIC PRESENTATION SCHEDULE for the Week of September 1, 2008

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
6:00pm	6:00pm	6:00pm
Economic Study	Concept Overview	Concept Overview

Presentations are open to the public and anyone interested in learning more is invited to attend.
No reservations required.

We are located at the JT Guerrero building in Garapan next to Asia Scooter Rentals.
This schedule will rotate weekly and presentations will be added.
Schedules will be noticed weekly on Tuesdays.
Private presentations are available upon request – please give us a call!
If you need more information please call us at 234-2665.

NEW LOAD SHEDDING SCHEDULE

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that the previously promulgated load shedding schedule will once again be changed to ensure protection at Power Plant 1.

The previous schedule incorporated Feeder 2, Feeder 4 and Feeder 7 in one timeslot. However, in preparation for the additional power supply to be provided by the Aggreko temporary power plant, some necessary modifications were made to the electrical grid to ensure that Power Plant 1 will continue to have system protection throughout the load-shedding schedule.

The schedule will go as follows:

8am - 11am
Feeder-2: Entire Grid
Portions of Lower Base, CPA (Seaport), Beach Road Garapan south to San Jose Intersection
Kiya-2: Entire Grid
As Lito, Koblerville, As Gonno, San Antonio and Afetnas, portions of Fina Sisu

11am - 2pm
Feeder-3: Second partial
Upper Gualo Rai, Taro Sue
Kiya-4: Entire Grid
Chalan Kiya, San Jose, Oleai, Susupe, Mount Carmel and south to portions of Chalan Kanoa
Kiya 1: Entire Grid
As Terlaje, NMC,Botanical Garden, Portions of Fina Sisu, Lower Dandan, Upper Dandan, Homestead, Isley Field, Kanat Tabla

2pm - 5pm
Feeder-2: Entire Grid
Portions of Lower Base, CPA (Seaport), Beach Road Garapan south to San Jose Intersection
Kiya-2: Entire Grid
As Lito, Koblerville, As Gonno, San Antonio and Afetnas, portions of Fina Sisu

5pm - 8pm
Feeder-1 Second partial
Upper Navy Hill, Upper MIHA, 99 Cent store
Feeder-4: Entire Grid
Portions of Lower Base, Sadog Tasi, Capital Hill, Kagman and portions of Papago (Botanical Garden)
Feeder-7: Entire Grid
Lower Base industrial area, north to Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis and Marpi

8pm - 11pm
Feeder-3: Second partial
Upper Gualo Rai, Taro Sue
Kiya-4: Entire Grid
Chalan Kiya, San Jose, Oleai, Susupe, Mount Carmel and south to portions of Chalan Kanoa
Kiya 1: Entire Grid
As Terlaje, NMC, Botanical Garden, portions of Fina Sisu, Lower Dandan, Upper Dandan, Homestead, Isley Field, Kanat Tabla

11pm - 2am
Feeder-1 Second partial
Upper Navy Hill, Upper MIHA, 99 Cent store
Feeder-4: Entire Grid
Portions of Lower Base, Sadog Tasi, Capital Hill, Kagman and portions of Papago (Botanical Garden)
Feeder-7: Entire Grid
Lower Base industrial area, north to Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis and Marpi

2am - 5pm
Feeder-2: Entire Grid
Portions of Lower Base, CPA (Seaport), Beach Road Garapan south to San Jose Intersection
Kiya-2: Entire Grid
As Lito, Koblerville, As Gonno, San Antonio and Afetnas, portions of Fina Sisu

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Feeder-7: Entire Grid
Lower Base industrial area, north to Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis and Marpi

Source: Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

2008 GOVERNOR'S HUMANITIES AWARDS

COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES NMI

CALL FOR NOMINATION

The Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities is accepting nominations for the 2008 Governor's Humanities Awards. Individuals, groups and organizations may be nominated for significant contributions to the humanities in five categories:

- **Research and Publication in the Humanities**
- **Preservation of CNMI History**
- **Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices**
- **Outstanding Humanities Teacher**
- **Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities**

Nomination forms and guidelines may be obtained at the Humanities Council's office in the Reyes Building in Dandan or downloaded from the Council's website at www.nmihumanities.org.

Nomination forms must be received by the Humanities Council on or before 4:30 p.m. on 3 October 2008. Awardees will be selected by a majority vote of the Council's board of directors.

Awards will be presented during the 2008 Governor's Humanities Awards ceremonies in October 2008. The time, date and venue of this event will be announced shortly. Please contact Council staff at 235-4785 for additional information about the 2008 Governor's Humanities Awards.

Zoning officials warn vs bribery

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

New signs adorn the CNMI's zoning office warning people against attempting to bribe its officials, a move an administrator there says was prompted by several recent efforts by unnamed parties to coerce staff into granting special consideration when it comes to zoning rules.

"Zoning is worth something," administrator Steve Tilley said in an interview Monday. "Various people in our office have been approached in various ways and we want to make a statement that we're not going to stand for it."

The signs are written in three languages—English, Korean and Chinese—and warn that anyone attempting to bribe a local government official can be penalized with up to five years in prison and a maximum fine of $1,000.

Tilley said staff posted the signs last week.

Meanwhile, the Zoning Board is gearing up for a series of educational workshops on local zoning laws to be held at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe later this month. Dates and times for the workshops have yet to be determined, Tilley said.

During the board's most recent meeting Sept. 4, Tilley said its members agreed to push ahead with plans to establish an "adult business overlay zone"—a district where massage parlors, strip clubs and other similar establishments can open—along Middle Road beginning October. Adult businesses will have to relocate to the zone unless they can get an extension from the zoning office based on extenuating circumstances, Tilley added.

Zoning officials have already begun cracking down on adult businesses that fail to conform with a host of new regulations that apply to them—such as signage requirements, lighting rules and other similar standards. The zoning office recently issued its first fine under the new rules to a massage parlor that had previously gotten zoning approval to operate as a beauty shop.

"We're starting to do some field work," Tilley said, adding the zoning office is willing to work with businesses to help them avoid penalties. "We want people to know that there are consequences to breaking the law."

In related news, Tilley noted the zoning board has denied a bid by a Buddhist temple in Marpi to build new housing for its monks and workers, along with a new dining room, on its grounds. Tilley said the board denied the request primarily because the new designation the temple had sought, known as "village commercial," might have opened the property to other uses in the future that clash with the surrounding properties.

However, he said zoning officials have submitted a proposal to the Saipan legislative delegation to amend zoning laws in a way that would allow the board to grant the temple's request without a major change to the zoning designation allowing future commercial uses.

Senate chief backs applying OGA to Legislature, with exemptions

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate President Pete P. Reyes is pushing for legislation that would apply the Open Government Act to the Legislature.

Reyes has proposed to restore the applicability of the government transparency law, with a few exemptions, to lawmakers. Under Reyes' proposal, communications between legislative members and their constituents, as well as those among lawmakers, would be exempted from public scrutiny.

Reyes, in a bill he has prefiled at the Senate, said the exemption would ensure that "constituents who are not lobbyists…never fear they are violating the law by speaking to their elected officials."

The bill also seeks a period limit for challenging laws passed by the Legislature in violation of the Open Government Act—for example, public notice was not given for the session at which a bill was passed. If the bill is signed into law, citizens will have 30 days to bring that law before the court.

Reyes said this provision is designed to bar untimely challenges to new laws and thus keep investor confidence in the Commonwealth's laws.

Rep. Tina Sablan, who has been fighting to get the Legislature subject to the Open Government Act, praised the main intent of the bill, but expressed reservations about its current form.

"I think the Senate president's public statements in favor of the application of the Open Government Act are commendable. And I also think that the bill can be improved," she said.

According to Sablan, the 30-day statute of limitations is prohibitive, and the exemption for certain communications is open to abuse and unnecessary.

"The language of the bill is constructed against the right of the citizen to be informed and to have the opportunity to participate in the legislative process and still in favor of the ability of lawmakers to circumvent the same rules of transparency that apply to all other agencies," she said.

"But of course, I don't claim to have all the answers about the best way to improve transparency in the Legislature and I am open to discussion and alternative opinions," she added.

Sablan is spearheading a citizen initiative to apply the Open Government Act to the Legislature. She and other proponents of the popular initiative hope to get it on the ballot in next year's general election. Over 2,000 voters have signed the initiative petition.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

CNMI Division of Historic Preservation's Five-Year Comprehensive Plan

The CNMI Division of Historic Preservation (HPO) will be holding a series of public hearings to solicit input on its comprehensive preservation plan for the period 2008 to 2012.

This plan will establish the HPO's goals and objectives for this five-year period and will determine the types of programs and activities it will support utilizing annual grants received from the U.S. National Park Service.

Public hearings will be held in accordance with the following schedule:

Saipan: September 23, 2008, 07:00 PM at CRM Conference Room

Tinian: September 10, 2008, 07:00 PM at the Gymnasium

Rota: September 18, 2008, 07:00 PM at the Round House in Songsong village

Public input may also be directed to the HPO in writing (letter or email). Letters should be addressed to the Director, Division of Historic Preservation, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Saipan, MP 96950. Emails should be directed to: cnmihpo@pticom.com All comments must be received by the HPO no later than 4:00 p.m. on September 26, 2008.

Additional information about this plan may be obtained from the HPO's main office located across from the Saipan International Airport or from its Rota and Tinian branches.

/s/ **Pedro (Roy) C. Sablan**
Director, Historic Preservation Office

/s/ **Cecilia T. Celes**
Secretary, Dept. of Community & Cultural Affairs

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Fitial OKs $4.75M for several projects

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has signed into law a bill that appropriates $4.75 million to the Saipan scholarship program and numerous other projects.

Under the Saipan law, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance Program will receive $3 million. Another $1.3 million will go to sixteen different projects within Saipan. The remaining $450,000 will fund the startup operations of the Rota Gaming Commission—to be repaid to Saipan in one year.

The funds come from revenue the Saipan lawmakers project will be collected from poker machine licenses during the 2009 fiscal year.

Rep. Tina Sablan, the only lawmaker who voted against the Saipan measure, expressed her disappointment with the enactment of the bill.

"That appropriations bill makes a mockery of any claim that either the Administration or the Legislature might make in FY 2009 that we have done everything we possibly can to cut wasteful government spending and that we have no choice but to slash people's salaries yet again," said Sablan.

The governor's budget proposal for FY2009 includes several measures designed to cut the government's payroll costs, including a biweekly shutdown of government offices and the suspension of holiday pay for government employees.

In addition to $3 million for scholarship and $450,000 for the Rota casino operations, the new measure appropriates:

■ $100,000 for the SHEFA operations;

■ $45,000 for the 2009 Liberation Day activities;

■ $50,000 for the CNMI Little League;

■ $25,000 for the Fishing Derby;

■ $20,000 for the Agricultural Fair;

■ $15,000 for the Flame Tree Arts Festival;

■ $75,000 for the Saipan Zoning Board;

■ $30,000 for the architectural and engineering design for, and construction of, the Anthony T. Benavente Baseball Field on Navy Hill;

■ $111,000 for road improvement and paving at Gloria Drive on Navy Hill;

■ $200,000 for road paving and drainage improvement at Egigi Road, Piligro Lane, Sea Coast Lane, Rota Place, and Orhopay Place;

■ $100,000 for the construction of a pavilion, purchase of children's playground equipment, and improvements to make the Capital Hill Children's Park accessible to persons with disabilities;

■ $200,000 for road paving at Gangoche Road to Pika Road in Precinct 1;

■ $200,000 for road paving and drainage improvements and renovations of unspecified public facilities in Precinct II;

■ $10,000 for the improvement of public facilities at Pakpak Beach Park;

■ $21,000 for repairs and maintenance of Dandan Elementary School; and

■ $100,000 for the Northern Marianas Trades Institute.

In related news, Fitial signed into law a separate measure distributing $166,000 of lapsed funds from a previous local appropriation. Under the local act, the funds will be appropriated as follows:

$15,000 for the Northern Islands field trip;

$5,600 for the payment of Marianas Cablevision for running the Chamorro/Carolinian Language Commission TV talk show from February 2008 through May 2008;

$20,000 for the construction of covered walkways at Oleai Elementary School;

$19,000 for the construction of the San Vicente Headstart classroom;

$21,244 for the Northern Mariana Islands Museum of Culture and Arts;

$20,000 for the procurement of *tanita* scales for the Public School System;

$15,000 to upgrade the water line system by installing a check valve in Tanapag;

$25,000 for paving of parking area at Pakpak Beach Park;

$5,000 for the renovation of the House of Manhoben in Chalan Kanoa;

$15,000 for the Tetset Konferensian Chamorro; and

$5,000 for the annual Chief Aghurubw celebration.

OPENING

From Page 1

ages, Sablan said. While power did go out at Chacha Oceanview Junior High School, she said, teachers and students worked through it by opening doors and windows.

Katrina Lizama, principal of San Antonio Elementary, said she visited all of the classrooms and spoke to students. They told her they were ready to be back.

"It was a long summer," she said. "They're pretty excited."

The power at San Antonio went out at 2pm, allowing students to spend the majority of their first day back with air conditioning and electricity. The school made sure their water tank and generator were ready for the first day.

Gov. Benigno Fitial ordered four schools —Kagman Elementray School, Koblerville Elementary School, Marianas High School and Oleai Head Start — to delay their opening after they failed to pass water quality tests.

Even though the elementary schools later passed the test, workers went ahead and cleaned and refilled the tank, Lizama said.

"We wanted to make sure it was really clean," she said.

Craig Garrison, vice principal at Saipan Southern High School, said the first day went smoothly.

All students were in class 45 minutes after school started, he said. Usually on the first days students are finalizing or making corrections to their schedule, but the majority of students were already in class yesterday morning, he said.

"The few left over were expedited right through, and we got them back into classes and ready to learn," he said.

Garrison said water and power were not an issue for the school. Students went without power for only about one hour, and water tanks are cleaned every three months.

It's unfortunate the four schools were forced to delay their opening, Garrison said.

"I imagine the Governor, since he asked we suspend school, I'm assuming the Governor didn't like the fact we went ahead and opened, and that's why he sent sanitation to see how many schools he could close."

A student of Oleai Elementary School patiently waits for his ride home after his first day of class yesterday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

LESS

From Page 1

a trend of decreasing remittance has emerged in the CNMI. Beginning in the second quarter of 2007, the level of remittance has gone down each quarter by millions, save for a slight jump in the last remaining months of 2007—in which remittance figures still fell 12 percent shy of the same quarter during the previous year.

The second quarter of 2008 saw a 5.4 percent decline in remittance below the total seen in the first months of the year, a drop of more than $1 million, marking a 10.3 percent decline when compared to the same period last year.

An estimated $19.7 million left the Commonwealth in the second quarter of 2008, while about $20.8 million departed in the first.

Local government officials attribute much of the remittance that occurs in the CNMI to foreign workers, who often send money back to their home countries to support family or loved ones. Critics, however, have previously suggested that the practice of sending money outside the CNMI is a drain on the local economy.

In an interview Monday, Lillian Pangelinan, Banking Administrator for Commerce, said the decline in remittance could be linked to reductions in the number of foreign workers in the CNMI or to a decline in the number jobs available to them. Remittance, she added, is a natural part of an economy with a high number of foreign workers.

"Although we would, of course, like to see that money stay in the CNMI, it's to be expected that people will send money home to support their families," she said.

Currently, there are 22,400 foreigners in the CNMI with some type of authorization to work, according to statistics provided by the local Department of Labor. However, the foreign workforce has diminished recently as more workers have found themselves unemployed and unable to find new jobs within the time period local laws require, thereby prompting them to return to their nations of origin, deputy labor chief Cinta Kaipat said in an interview.

"Recently, as people have not been able to locate jobs, those who failed to do so in the statutorily required period have not been extended," Kaipat said. "People have been leaving because there not many jobs."

Kaipat added that workers are often drawn to jobs in the CNMI because of the chance to send money home.

"Obviously, if that money doesn't stay in the Commonwealth and doesn't get circulated, we're not benefiting from that and there seems to be a lot more that leaves the Commonwealth than is here, so that doesn't really help out the economy," she said. "Not that I blame the workers, many of them are here to work to support their families back home."

Since the fourth quarter of 2007, the amount of money leaving the CNMI has fallen from an estimated $24.3 million to about $19.7 million.

4 SCHOOLS

From Page 1

be in danger of exposure to the contaminated water if they occupied the affected school," Fitial wrote in the declaration.

Last week, Fitial asked DPH to create a task force that would check the water supply and quality at each of the Public School System schools.

Sixteen schools were tested and evaluated last week, with six schools initially coming back positive for coliform bacteria, said Joseph Kevin Villagomez, Secretary of Public Health. The affected schools were instructed to drain, clean and refill the water reservoirs before the Division of Environmental Quality conducted an additional test. Two of the six schools came back negative, but DEQ was unable to test the remaining four—MHS, Kagman Elementary, Koblerville Elementary and Oleai Head Start—because they did not have running water. Except for Oleai Head Start, the schools now have running water. Oleai Head Start was forced to buy water.

DEQ retested the four schools yesterday, and the results will be ready this morning, Villagomez said.

The delay was the best thing to do under the circumstances, Villagomez said.

"Let's face it, delaying for one or two days is the right thing to do to protect the children," he said.

Education Commissioner Rita Sablan was delivered the executive order at her house Sunday at approximately 9:30pm. Sablan, along with other administrators, were working until 2am trying to notify the necessary individuals, she said.

"It's a nightmare," she said. "First we didn't get it until [Sunday] night at 9:27pm. Getting it at that late of an hour was simply time consuming in identifying a response team to inform all parents, teachers and students."

Board of Education chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita said she was not happy with the order.

"I'm disappointed with the Governor," she said. "I wish we had had more advanced notice. How come nobody called us? How do we tell kids, how do we tell parents, how do we tell bus drivers?"

A public service announcement went out over the radio Sunday night, and bus drivers were informed so they could tell students yesterday morning. Parents of Head Start students were also called, Blanco-Maratita said.

"It's still frustrating," she added. "We go through preparation and planning."

Many students and faculty at MHS were not aware of the delay until they arrived at school yesterday morning.

"I just found out when I came in the gate," MHS counselor Sarona Vivao said. "All of a sudden, there's something wrong with the water. Come on now."

Fellow MHS counselor Cherlyn Cabrera said she was also frustrated.

"It's horrible. We've already delayed it a month," she said. "Everyone wants to get started."

Blanco-Maratita said food vendors were also affected. They need 24 hours notice to cancel their orders, but since they did not receive that, PSS will be required to pay for the breakfasts and lunches.

Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor's Office, said that, without sufficient samples, the Governor had no choice but to order the closure.

"Without sufficient water samples, [the schools] were ordered to close as a matter of prudence," he said. "We look forward to PSS meeting the standards."

Under the Governor's declaration of a state of disaster emergency, he issued four directives: to close the four affected schools; to close other schools if they are found to be similarly affected; to notify him when the water at the affected schools is safe; and suspend all statues and regulations relating to the closure of the affected schools.

In August, Fitial asked the Board of Education to consider pushing back the start of school two weeks or until there was reliable power on the island, but the board decided to start school as scheduled.

‘Major disaster may cause economy to fall apart’

EMO stresses need for businesses to prepare for disasters

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Any major disaster to hit a small island like Saipan may cause the economy to fall apart if businesses are not well prepared for it, according to officials of the Emergency Management Office.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, EMO chief planner Theodore Untalan and EMO adviser Dr. Ken Shankweiler underscored the importance of businesses, particularly small ones, to prepare for any disaster to minimize losses.

Untalan said the national theme is to link up the private sector with the public sector in terms of disaster preparedness.

“In the past, the government had to look for business input or business resources after a disaster,” Untalan said.

With the experience from Hurricane Katrina, he said, the national Federal Emergency Management Agency and Department of Homeland Security are now placing a lot of emphasis on setting up a private-public partnership and getting and knowing their resources.

“Business is a integral part of our economy. In any disaster, our economy could fall apart. Part of our education is to get the businesses prepared for a disaster so any loss will be minimized,” Untalan said. “Minimizing their loss, getting the economy back on its feet and their help is part of our agenda,” he added.

EMO conducted a business preparedness workshop at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe last Friday in line with this September’s celebration of CNMI Disaster Preparedness Month.

Dr. Shankweiler said that looking at past experiences, EMO has determined that it could have done a much better job of involving the business community because businesses are an integral part if an emergency occurs in the CNMI.

“Protecting our businesses and having our businesses be part of what we do during and after the disaster is so important that we put a lot of significance on this particular activity this year,” he said.

Shankweiler said EMO will continue throughout the year to involve businesses in everything it does.

“We would like to see businesses involved, with a wider understanding all of these things and how we work together to make them a very integral part. This is not just the government but business and the private sector,” he said.

Shankweiler, chairman of 2008 Disaster Preparedness Month, said EMO sponsored the workshop, in coordination with Saipan Chamber of Commerce executive director Kyle Calabrese.

He said the workshop’s participants were primarily small business owners who came to learn how to prepare their businesses in the event of an emergency.

At the seminar, Megabyte general manager Brad Brian spoke about computers, telling business owners, among other things, about the importance of backing up their computers and doing things to protect their computers in the event of emergencies.

Frank L. Gibson, a consultant, discussed Human Resource’s role in disaster management.

Gibson, who used to be an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission expert, spoke on matters that human resources personnel should do to be prepared, such as how to pay the employees if there is an emergency.

Among the things Gibson discussed was how to protect employees if something happens during the course of work in a time of emergency.

Shankweiler said they also had Pete Schilling speak about disaster preparedness from an insurance point of view.

“He’s talked [about] what you should be doing, what will insurance cover, what doesn’t insurance cover. What are some other options that you have in the event of having an emergency,” he said.

‘Open up CPA chief’s job to new applicants’

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

Rota Sen. Paul Manglona (R), responding to concerns over the salary the acting Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director might receive, said Monday the agency should “open up” the job to other applicants who could be more qualified.

Reports surfaced Monday that Efrain Camacho, CPA’s acting executive director, is negotiating with the government in a bid to win an exemption from a salary cap imposed by local laws that could net him a salary of $100,000 or up to $170,000.

In an interview, Manglona suggested that if Gov. Benigno Fitial plans to pay any new CPA director more, the government should take applications to find someone with more experience in financial management and dealing with federal agencies.

“If we’re going to pay above the cap, why don’t we advertise the job opening?” Manglona said. “That way, we’ll have a selection of people to choose from.”

Manglona noted the new director will have to address major financial issues at CPA and develop relationships with the Federal Aviation Administration, tasks that require an experienced candidate.

“With all due respect to Mr. Camacho, if we’re going to pay the director more, let’s open it up,” Manglona said. “It’s my hope the CPA board will advertise the position.”

Camacho refused to answer questions Monday. Neither CPA staff nor the chairman of CPA’s board responded to a request for an interview at press time.

Gas station employee caught on camera allegedly stealing money

A surveillance camera caught a then employee of Kagman Mobil Station allegedly stealing $300 cash in two incidents in July.

Police on Friday afternoon arrested the suspect, Edward Demapan Santos Jr., 20, of Navy Hill, for theft.

Santos was taken to the Superior Court yesterday morning for a bail hearing.

Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo imposed a $5,000 cash bail for the defendant’s temporary liberty and set the preliminary hearing for Sept. 17.

Detective Abraham Villagomez stated in his report that Jovita Flores, owner of Kagman Mobil Station, had called the Department of Public Safety to report a theft incident.

Villagomez said the preliminary investigation conducted by a police officer showed that one of the employees of the gasoline station stole money from a drop box behind the cashier’s counter.

The detective said the officer’s review of the surveillance camera footage from July 27, 2008, showed that Santos, who was wearing a Kagman Mobil Station uniform, was seen behind the cashier’s counter. Santos was observed writing on a piece of paper and looking outside the window.

When the cashier walked away from the counter to attend to customers, Santos allegedly went behind the cashier’s counter, reached into the drop box and took $200 cash.

At 12:30am Santos left the station and did not return, the detective said.

Last July 29, the gas station’s owner reported to DPS again that another $100 was logged into the cashier’s shift report from July 21, but the money was missing.

Villagomez said a review of the surveillance camera footage showed that on that day, Santos was seen behind the cashier’s counter, reaching for $100 from the drop box.

At the time, the cashier was outside, police said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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AGO says Miura petition has no merit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Attorney General's Office asserted yesterday that Kazuyoshi Miura's petition for habeas corpus is wholly without merit and presents no new issues.

Assistant attorney general Jeffery L. Warfield Sr. said Miura's petition is "nothing more than a veiled attempt" at appealing the Superior Court's prior ruling denying his motion to dismiss.

"Petitioner has failed to raise a cognizable issue that is subject to review in a habeas corpus proceeding challenging extradition," said Warfield in the CNMI government's opposition to the petition.

Miura

The government lawyer pointed out that Miura does not contest the issues of identity, the sufficiency of the documents nor whether he was present in California when the crimes were committed.

Warfield said Miura's sole contention is that he is immune from prosecution based on a California double-jeopardy statute that he is the subject of a matter currently pending before the California courts.

The CNMI Superior Court, he said, is legally prohibited from reviewing such immunity issue.

Warfield said the local court should deny the petition as Miura's arrest and detention is lawful since he is a fugitive wanted for extradition by California for the crimes of murder and conspiracy to commit murder.

Bruce Berline, one of Miura's lawyers, said Saturday they would talk with the prosecution whether or not to once more postpone the hearing on Saipan following a Los Angeles county judge's announcement that he would issue a decision by Sept. 26 on Miura's motion to dismiss the murder and conspiracy charges.

Berline said that during Saturday's hearing in L.A. Superior Court, Judge Steven Van Sicklen placed the motion under advisement and set another hearing for Sept. 26.

"The Sept. 26 hearing will be solely for the judge to render his decision in this matter and we go from there," he said.

Berline said they don't know what they are going to do with the scheduled Sept. 12 hearing on Saipan.

The Superior Court postponed many times the hearing and the filing deadline on the petition for habeas corpus following stipulations by Miura's counsels and the prosecution.

Miura is accused of conspiring to kill his wife, who was shot when they were visiting L.A. in 1981. Miura was convicted of murder in Japan, but the verdict was overturned in 1998 by the country's high court.

The 61-year-old Miura was arrested in connection with the murder while on a business trip to Saipan last February. Miura remains in jail as he fights his extradition to LA. from Saipan.

Diego, Stanley named to House panel

Reps. Diego T. Benavente and Stanley T. Torres have been named to replace the two members who resigned recently from the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

Benavente and Torres replace Reps. Tina Sablan and Edward Salas, who quit the committee after the House of Representatives, at the committee's urging, shelved a bill granting improved immigration status to long-time foreign workers in the Commonwealth. Sablan and Salas, along with two other lawmakers, sponsored the bill.

Rep. Rosemond Santos, chairwoman of the committee, announced the appointment of Benavente and Torres in a memorandum to Speaker Arnold I. Palacios on Friday.

In her resignation letter, Sablan accused the legislative panel of irresponsible lawmaking practices. She said the committee did not give her an opportunity to review the report on the controversial immigration bill. She added that the two-page report failed to justify its recommendation.

According to veteran lawmaker, the House of Representatives' rules allow a committee to report out a bill for consideration by the entire House, as long as the action has the approval of majority of the members. Santos and the two other committee members—Rep. Joseph C. Reyes and Rep. Edwin Aldan—signed the committee report. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

Military care package drive launched

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A local organization is seeking the names and addresses of CNMI military men and women stationed around the world in order to send them care packages.

Operation Home Front Support is beginning a drive to send care packages to all CNMI military men and women, said Geri Willis, program organizer and program director for CNMI Troops-to-Teachers.

"Any military off island are welcome," she said. "It's for all members of the military."

Fred Camacho, co-organizer of Operation Home Front Support, said they hope to send the packages by the end of November, so the men and women can receive the packages in time for the holidays.

Operation Home Front Support will begin collecting items Sept. 27, Camacho said. They are seeking canned food, drinks, snacks, as well as letters to the individual men and women.

"We want to make sure that all of them get something," he said.

When Camacho was deployed, he said receiving a personalized letter was very uplifting.

There will be collection sites around the island, including sites at the Public Schools and fire stations to act as individual village sites. The Reserve Center will act as the overall collection center.

The organization will soon begin arranging samples at local grocery stores, so residents can get an idea of what items are needed and in what size.

"They can see the size of the box and can get an idea," Camacho said.

Willis said they are aiming to send 200 packages, but the Red Cross bought 300 boxes just in case.

Those who know of an address of a military man or woman can contact Willis or Camacho at troops2teachers@hotmail.com or 237-3287.

Democracy Considered
A We the People Grant Project from the NMI Council for the Humanities
Join a panel of political, business and community leaders to discuss
Federalization: An Agent of Preserving or Accelerating Demise of Local Culture?
September 16, 2008
7:00pm-8:30pm
American Memorial Park Auditorium
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Participate by attending event, calling in, or send emails to taroleafgroup@gmail.com.
The discussion is not a debate about the merits of federalization, but rather an insightful discussion about the impact — direct or indirect—that federalization will have on local culture.
Common wisdom holds that globalization is inevitable as a result of (and convergence of) the widespread use of the internet, the ease of travel restrictions around the world, the advancement of technology, an economy that commands an international supply chain, and other tools—or agents—of this great international amalgamation.
The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is certainly not immune to what is happening in the global arena. Residents need only to look at the meteoric rise of the price of gasoline to see how events in other parts of the world are impacting life here.
Given all these, what of the local culture? As the CNMI becomes more a part of a larger structure, how will local culture be impacted? And more specifically, given the agents of change mentioned above, what role would the recent federalization of labor and immigration play?
As the CNMI becomes more a part of the bigger U.S. family, could federalization be the saving grace of local culture? Or, could it unlock the final floodgate that would accelerate the demise of the local culture as we know it?
For more information, please email at taroleafgroup@gmail.com.
taro leaf
"From Many, One: Exploring Democracy in a Multi-Cultural Commonwealth."
"This project was supported by funding received from the National Endowment for the Humanities and awarded by the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this project are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities or the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities."

'Enforce ban on betel nut, smoking in govt offices'

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has called on his Cabinet members to enforce the ban on smoking and betel nut chewing in government offices.

The governor said all government employees under the Executive Branch are prohibited from smoking and chewing betel nut on government property during government working hours.

A smoking ban policy has been in effect at government offices not only within the Executive Branch, but also the Legislature. But it is not being strictly enforced in some offices.

In a memorandum, the governor reiterated his administration's anti-smoking and anti-betel nut chewing policy. He also urged department heads to punish employees who violate the restrictions.

"I expect the strictest adherence to this policy at all times, and I urge all management authorities to impose appropriate disciplinary sanctions on employees who violate this policy…," the governor said. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

Diabetes summit gathers Pacific health officials

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

For the next four days, health officials from across the Pacific region will be discussing diabetes at the first regional diabetes summit.

The summit, which had its first day yesterday at Saipan World Resort, is bringing together more than 130 health workers to discuss practices, share resources and plan for future preventative measures.

Representatives from the CNMI, American Samoa, Guam, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands were in attendance yesterday.

"This is the first time we've all been in the same room speaking the same language," said Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez.

The summit allows officials from the different islands to share information on successful methods and resources, Villagomez said.

"It's letting them know this is where we're at, and what resources we can assist them with," he said.

Some of the islands don't even have an ophthalmologist, and diabetes is found to be a leading cause for blindness, said Lynn Tenorio, Deputy Secretary for Public Health Administration.

"How do you prevent blindness if you don't have an ophthalmologist?" she said.

Thirty percent of CNMI residents are afflicted with the illness, ranking the Commonwealth among the top five populations for the rate of diabetes, Tenorio said.

According to 2002 statistics, there were 3,019 known diabetes patients in the CNMI, with half being of Chamorro descent.

In the past, type II diabetes was seen in older patients, but now it is being seen in kids as young as 10 years old in the CNMI. In the Pacific region, kids as young as 6 years old are being diagnosed with the illness, Tenorio said.

The illness has forced the Commonwealth Health Center to install 18 additional dialysis units, bringing the total number to 30, Tenorio said.

The community needs to become involved in preventing diabetes, she said. One way is to promote local fruits and vegetables.

"[Kids] forget about the fruits our families grew up with," she added.

The first half of the summit will be a period of information sharing between the different islands. During the second half of the summit, the jurisdictions will break into small groups and work to address their individual needs, Tenorio said.

Several organizations helped to fund the summit and pay for the travel costs of the attendees. The organizations include: Health and Human Service's Office of Global Health Affairs; National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities; Indian Health Services; and the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SHOPPING
Gloria Reyes helps her son, Edward, 7, and daughter Kaleina, 11, choose new notebooks, together with dozens of other parents doing their last minute shopping for school supplies at the National Office Supply on Beach Road, Garapan Sunday. The Public School System began classes yesterday, despite continuing power outages.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Drinking water problem corrected

Customers of the Saipan water system along As Gonno Road, Ahu Drive, and Alaguan Street need no longer boil their water as the bacterial problem with the water supply has already been corrected.

In a statement issued yesterday by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., it said the chlorine treatment was found to be providing adequate chlorine to the affected areas.

Repeat samples collected on Friday, Sept. 5, were tested and found to be free of both total coliform and E. coli, CUC said.

Homes along As Gonno Road, Ahu Drive, and Alaguan Street were notified on Sept. 5, 2008, of a problem with the drinking water and were advised to boil their water before using.

"We are pleased to report that the problem has been corrected and that it is no longer necessary to boil the water before using it. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience," CUC said.

Customers may contact the Water Division Manager at 235-7025 through 235-7031 or Heidi Yelin at the CUC Water Quality Laboratory at 322-5140 or at P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950 for any comments or questions. ***(JV)***

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SMOKE-FREE CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez hands over a certificate of recognition to Marcia Ogania, Subway store team leader; and Jerry Loyola, Subway store assistant team leader, following the signing by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on Aug. 29, 2008, at the Department of Public Health of a proclamation declaring September as Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Awareness Month. The certificate commends Subway Investments Corp. for implementing a smoke-free policy at its restaurants.

TRAGEDY AT SEA U.S. COAST GUARD

At noon Sunday, the Guam-based U.S. Coast Guard cutter Assateague located the body of a small child wearing a red shirt in the water 1.8 nautical miles north of the Cabras Power Plant in Guam. This horrible accident serves as a very important reminder to call 911 and immediately notify responders when there is a missing child on or near the water. Every minute counts. Photo shows the Guam Police Department meeting the Assateague at the pier in Apra Harbor.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Assistant attorney general sacked in Pago Pago

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—There's been no word yet from the American Samoa attorney general's office into the reported sacking of assistant attorney general Faamomoe Masaniai. Masaniai has been reportedly sacked from office after he prosecuted four employees from the attorney general's office on corruption allegations. Monica Miller says he has been associated with several high profile cases prosecuted by the government and has upset some when he said earlier on TV that corruption is rampant in the attorney general's office. Masaniai has declined to comment and he said that he's been advised by his lawyer not to say anything. He's supposed to leave the island tonight.

Kiwi unions want to represent Pacific workers

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI)—New Zealand's Council of Trade Unions says Pacific Islanders brought in under the RecogniZed Seasonal Employer scheme need union representation. The RSE scheme has been deemed generally successful in its first year but there have been problems—not least I-Kiribati workers who returned home in debt. There have also been accusations of overcrowding while some I-Kiribati have broken the terms of their visas and are in hiding from New Zealand immigration officials. The CTU president, Helen Kelly, says changes have to be made to the way the scheme runs. "We're calling for them to be employed on standardised agreements in their own language. We want the pastoral care element of their employment to be separated out from their employer and carefully monitored. We want a funded representation for these workers so that they can actually have Pacific unionists going into these workplaces." Helen Kelly says the New Zealand Government seems open to their ideas but it yet to make a commitment.

UN hunger program to assist Tonga

NUKUALOFA, Tonga (Radio Tonga News/PIR)—The hike in prices of meat has heartened the Food and Agricultural Organization to urgently make assistance to Tonga worth US$25,000. It aims at ensuring that people who are less fortunate have access to healthy and better food. FAO representative officer, Vaha'i Lui, in an interview says the assistance will arrive in October or November and will be used to import more than 200 cross bred pigs from New Zealand and about two toNs of vegetable seedlings to be planted in the kingdom. There will also be a special committee funded by the FAO to distribute the assistance. In the meantime, Vaha'i says including in the assistance, are calves and sheep imported from Queensland, Australia to help cater for daily needs of meat and for Tonga to farm more sheep.

Samoan matai convicted of sexual abuse

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—An elderly high ranking *matai* of Samalae'ulu village on Savaii Island in Samoa, Latu Feo,has been convicted of three charges of having an unlawful sexual relationship with a 14-year-old boy. The Supreme Court jailed the 64 year old for two years and six months. In sentencing the defendant, Supreme court judge, Lesatele Rapi Va'ai, says sexual violation in Samoa must be condemned and the actions of the elderly *matai* has denied the young victim the opportunity to grow up in a happy and safe society. The court has taken into account the defendant's early guilty plea and being a first offender.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

SEPTEMBER 09, 2002

Babauta, MVA to follow up on Japan trip

Gov. Juan N. Babauta and Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente will meet key people at the Marianas Visitors Authority tomorrow to outline the administration's plans for tourists and investors to come into the CNMI, following the chief executive's recent successful trip to Japan. At the same time, Marianas Visitors Authority chair Dave Sablan said the Governor has tasked him to organize a gathering of top business executives on the island to discuss plans on how to improve the tourism-reliant economy of the Commonwealth on short-, medium- and long-term bases.

'Reorganization? What do you mean?'

Just before they face Gov. Juan N. Babauta on Tuesday, Marianas Visitors Authority officials are expressing concern over his recent statement that there is a need for a reorganization at the agency. Relatedly, the House committee on tourism has asked the MVA to evaluate itself and all the positions within the agency to make sure that funds intended to lure visitors into the CNMI are maximized.

HPMR saves NMIRF $2.58M

Since the start of its contract, the third-party administrator for the Group Health and Life Insurance Program has already managed to save the CNMI government some $2.58 million. This comes nearly a year after the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund hired Hawaii Pacific Medical Referral as third party administrator for the Group Health program. The contract became effective September 1, 2001.

SEPTEMBER 09, 2003

Manglona nixes call for session

Senate president Paul A. Manglona rebuffed the minority bloc's call for him to convene a session today, saying he cannot call for one until after they first meet to agree on an agenda. In a letter dated Sept. 8 addressed to the minority bloc members, Manglona said he is unable to convene a special session as was requested by the four senators.

CUC relieves lab manager, assistant

Effective Sept. 1, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. laboratory manager Pete Babauta and his assistant, Mariano Iglesias, were put on indefinite leave amid allegations of various compliance violations, including tampering of water test results. The memorandum-issued to them upon the advise of the CUC board-was signed by CUC executive director Lorraine A. Babauta, who is the laboratory manager's wife.

Six money managers on watch list

Six of the nine money managers handling the NMI Retirement Fund's international investment have been put on a watch list due to performance issues and their fates will be known when the Board of Trustees meets by the end of this month or next month. According to Fund administrator Karl T. Reyes, the Board is scheduled to meet soon to decide whether to keep the services of these money managers or not. If they decide to relinquish the services of some, Reyes said it would be decided as to which ones would be retained and which ones would be let go of.

SEPTEMBER 09, 2004

BB team will seek reelection in '05 polls

Gov. Juan N. Babauta has publicly declared that he would seek reelection in next year's gubernatorial race in front of a crowd of Republican partymates and supporters during his birthday bash at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Tuesday night. Babauta, who turned 51, wants another four-year term together with Lt. Gov. Diego Benavente as his running mate. "I want to thank the Republican Party for using the occasion of my birthday to do a fundraising and support for the party," the governor said.

'There is sufficient disaster aid for CNMI'

Typhoon victims in the CNMI should not hesitate to apply for assistance with the U.S. Small Business Administration because it has enough resources to help them, SBA officer for CNMI Carl N. Gaspari said yesterday. Gaspari, during yesterday's Saipan Chamber of Commerce meeting at Pacific Islands Club, said that CNMI residents should not worry about SBA's ability to extend assistance despite the fact that there are other major disasters in other parts of the United States such as Florida.

2008 SAPTEMBER & RECOVERY

Awareness Month

Schedule of Events (as of 9/4/08)

#	Date/Day/Time	Location	Event
1	8/28/08, Thur., 9:00A	Tinian Mayor's Conference Room	Tinian - Proclamation
2	8/29/08, Fri., 10:30A	DPH Conference Room 3, Navy Hill/Middle Rd.	Saipan - Proclamation
3	8/29/08, Fri., 10:30A	DPH Conference Room 3	Recognition of Smoke-Free Establishments
4	8/31/08, Sun., 9:00A	Mount Carmel Cathedral, Chalan Kanoa	Pastoral Celebration
5	9/03/08, 7:00P	Marianas Plaza, 3rd Floor, Susupe	MP 96950 Live! (hosted by Sinora Frances M. Sablan)
6	9/8/08, Mon., 2:00P – 3:00P	DYS	* Substance Abuse Prevention Presentations
7	9/8/08, Mon., 5:00P – 6:30P	DPH Conference Room 3, Navy Hill/Middle Rd.	Tobacco Cessation Program
8	9/11/08, Thur., 3:00P – 4:00P	Tinian Softball Field	Tinian Government League Co-Ed Softball
9	9/12/08, Fri., 9:30A	Rota	Proclamation
10	9/15 – 17/08, Mon. – Wed., 8:00A – 4:00P	TBA	* Challenge Masters Workshop
11	9/17/08, Wed., 9:00A-12:00P	Hyatt Regency Saipan	SEOW Meeting
12	9/18/08, Thur., 8:00A – 4:00P	Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe	* Tobacco Retailer Education Workshop
13	9/19/08, Fri., 8:00A – 2:00P	Tinian	School Presentations
14	9/20 – 21/08, Sat. – Sun., 9:00A – 5:00P	Rota	Baseball & Volleyball Tournaments
15	9/20/08, Sat., 6:00A – 10:00A	Tinian	Tinian Health Walk
16	9/20 – 21/08, Sat. – Sun., 8:00A – 5:00P	Ada Gym, Susupe	Volleyball Tournament
17	9/22/08, Tue., 8:00A – 4:00P	Office of Youth Affairs & Youth Learning Centers	Open House
18	9/22 – 26/08, 8:00A – 4:00P	TBA	SAPST PT & SAPST TOT
19	9/26/08, Fri.	Rota	* School Presentations
20	9/26/08, Fri.	Tinian	Conference
21	9/27/08, Sat., 6:00A – 10:00A	Rota	Rota Health Walk
22	9/27/08, Sat., 6:00A – 3:00P	Saipan	Family Fun Fair & Health Walk

For more information please contact:
Saipan – 323-6584/5/6/95 (CGC Prevention Office)
Tinian – 433-9337 (Ms. Tammy Palacios)
Rota – 532-9461 (Mr. Frank Songao)

SAPTEMBER & RECOVERY VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

HOSTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S COMMUNITY GUIDANCE CENTER.

TROPHIES

1st Place
2st Place
3st Place
Sportsmanship

September 20 - 21, 2008
@ ADA Gym

There will be four divisions;
Boys 18 & under, Girls 18 & under,
Boys 14 & under and Girls 14 & under.
6 teams maximum per division.
Registration deadline is September 12.
Coaches meeting is September 17.

NO REGISTRATION FEE!!
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SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME
SATURDAY, SEPT. 20 2020	8:00AM - 6:00PM
SUNDAY, SEPT. 21	8:00AM - 6:00PM

Registration and waiver forms are needed.
For more information please contact Becky Covarrubias at the Community Guidance Center @ 323-7848, or fax @ 323-6587 or email @ alesia_mexi@hotmail.com

*All community members are invited to participate in the **Substance Abuse Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Awareness Month Family Fun Fair** on **Saturday, September 27, 2008** at the **Civic Center** in Susupe. The **Family Fair Health Walk** will begin at the **Civic Center Basketball Court at 6 a.m. to 9 a.m.** (registration will begin at 5:30 a.m.) to **Quartermaster Road and back**. The first 100 participants who register for the Health Walk will receive a free T-shirt. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., a program fair will follow the walk highlighting various youth alternative programs and health programs and will also feature a jump rope competition and various vendors and entertainment.*

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS

DPH-COMMUNITY GUIDANCE CENTER
Tel: (670) 323-6560/61

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The final sprint

The process worked: That was one conclusion from watching the back-to-back party conclaves that ended Thursday in St. Paul, Minn. Yes, the nominating battle was too long and too expensive, and it wasn't always democratic (see: caucuses, rules of). But on the Democratic side, a large field was winnowed down to the two most formidable candidates, eliminating those less qualified (see: Edwards, John, for example). The survivor, Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois, the first African American nominee of either party, is short on experience but long on intellect, discipline and, as his smoothly run campaign has showed, managerial competence. The Republican convention featured former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, who trimmed and retrimmed his positions in tactical calculations that ultimately failed to derail the steadfast Sen. John McCain of Arizona. Mr. McCain is that rare politician who has held to positions of principle at great risk to his career, including this year on the subject of Iraq, and his nomination offered a measure of vindication for that courage.

In other ways, though, both conventions disappointed. We will spare the reader, at least for today, a lengthy exposition of our usual quadrennial grumpiness about the failure of either candidate to level with voters. "The challenges we face require tough choices," Mr. Obama said in accepting his party's nomination in Denver, but he didn't bother to mention any of them, let alone take a stand on them. Both candidates promised grand energy initiatives without disclosing that higher fuel prices will be essential to stemming climate change. Both spelled out the details of trillions of dollars in tax cuts, matched only by the gauziest of pledges to reduce spending, or in Mr. Obama's case, raise taxes on the rich. Neither detailed the changes that will be needed in Social Security and Medicare if the next generation is to be spared a stifling burden of debt.

We'll pass lightly over those evasions, because this year the conventions offered what was, perhaps, a more surprising disappointment. Though both candidates vowed to shake up Washington, neither offered bold or innovative proposals. Mr. Obama's agenda for the most part might have been lifted from Democratic stump speeches of four or eight years ago. Mr. McCain repudiated in a generic way the record of his own party in Washington but again offered little in substance that President Bush hasn't been promoting for the past eight years. Each candidate promised to reach across the aisle but without giving ground from the orthodoxy of his own party.

As the 2008 presidential campaign heads into its final two months, many difficult and consequential issues face the nation: how best to meet the threat of Islamist terrorism; how to end the scandal of failing urban schools; how to cope with inequality of wealth and income without closing the door on the benefits of the global economy. Given the caliber of both candidates, there's still room to hope that they may engage on these and other issues on a higher level than we heard during the past two weeks.

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Dive deep

Excellent new business

We are a one-legged economy right now…tourism. That leg is showing some signs of wear as it hops along trying valiantly to keep the CNMI afloat without much aid from any other sector. Just like a family needs income to survive, so does a country. Tourism and alms from the U.S. bring the only significant income into the CNMI right now. MVA works hard to bring tourists here but needs our help every day to give them a quality experience during their visit.A satisfied visitor replaces himself many times over. A dissatisfied one keeps hundreds of other potential visitors away.

Many of our visitors come here to scuba dive in our fantastic dive spots. They are likely to be repeat customers if they have a good experience. That is why I am so stoked that a new outfit is willing to invest their time, effort and money here. Since I am a scuba diver myself this may seem more important to me than to others, but I ask you to think about the value of this to our islands even if you are not a diver.

A new business is starting on Saipan. It is a dive charter boat. Built in the U.S., the Newton 46-foot special built dive boat is a welcome addition to the fleet here on Saipan. An outfit called Saipan Sun Company headed by Eric Lister has commissioned this boat at a cost nearing one million dollars and has had it shipped out here to the Marianas. The boat, named the *Sun Rider*, will act as a platform for local dive companies, interested individuals and other divers who want a fine dive experience. Dive motivated tourists are sure to love this boat!

We should not forget the other dive boats here like Captain Fred's outstanding *Dolphin Quest* and Scott's orange semi inflatable '*No Limts*' boats. Many other great dive boats ply the waters here but the new *Sun Rider* deserves mention as being a notch above in size and load capacity. Plus, she is brand new and still smells of fresh fiberglass.

I tried her out the other day and found the boat to be stable, fast and very accommodating in terms of space, amenities and ease of entrance/egress even for older divers like me. The crew is new but learning the customer service ropes. The captain is experienced and good at the job. I had a blast.

I for one wish the new venture the best of luck as they cater to our tourists who come here to dive the crystal waters of the Marianas. Please join me in welcoming these folks to Saipan.

Saipan Sun – Sun Rider Reservations: 287-7802
Visit www.saipansun.com
Dolphin Quest reservations: 287-6533
No Limits reservations: 233-8633

(I will happily give equal space to other dive charter boat's contact information if owner/operators will forward it to me: bbateman@pticom.com).

■ ■ ■ ■

Who controls our success?

There are those among us that by implication and by direct actions show that they believe our lives as citizens in a free society are controlled by the actions of government. They blame the current or past administrations here and elsewhere for the success or failure of our economy. They are wrong. Successful economies depend on entrepreneurs willing to take financial risks and work hard now in order to make gains later. It also depends on workers and managers and professionals willing to work hard and dedicate themselves to the success of the company they work for in return for a share of the gains made. Governments neither control nor even guide this process. They only benefit from it by skimming enough off the top of the monies produced by others to sustain their own existence and provide some generally needed (and a lot of completely unneeded) services. Government policies can help or hinder this progress but cannot control its destiny. Only we can do that. Only we as individuals do, do that.

We as citizens and workers, investors and businessmen control that economy. It is influenced far more by our collective and personal attitudes than by the nudging and siphoning actions of government. We are all personally responsible for its success or failure. The concept that a government entity shoulders that responsibility for us and that we are dependant upon them for our daily bread and existence is not just wrong, it is immoral and leads relentlessly to a self-fulfilling prophecy of an unfree and completely regulated society doomed to failure. It suggests we should abrogate our rights and responsibilities to an entity, which at its heart, produces nothing at all.

Governments worldwide only exist by using force to siphon off wealth from those workers who produce it. It is a parasitic relationship.The best of them allow citizens enough freedom to keep the economic engine turning and producing so they can take some and share it around with their friends. The worst and greediest try to take more than the producers can produce and go down the totalitarian tubes eventually.

If you have been convinced by those who believe government controls your economic life that, well, government controls your economic life, I've got good news for you. You and your neighbors are in control and have been all along. Take off and sail your ship to success. Chart your own course. Don't wait on some government wand to "improve the economy"; you'll wait a lifetime…for nothing.

■ ■ ■ ■

Quote of the week: Desire! That's the one secret of every man's career. Not education. Not being born with hidden talents. Desire.
—Bobby Unser (1934 -).

SOUR GRAPES

By BRUCE BATEMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman writes Sour Grapes when the moon is full and the mood strikes. Stay tuned for each exciting episode. "Yes, he is opinionated." Email: bbateman@pticom.com; Blog: http://saipanuvian.blogspot.com/

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The fiduciary responsibilities of Fund trustees on the issue of investing in CUC

By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian and military cartographer.

I learned a long time ago that if you are not wealthy, you had better have information. Not information in the aggregate—obviously no one can know everything. I took that bit of wisdom to mean if you need information, at least know where to go to get the answers you need. It was Jefferson who said, "He who knows how little he knows—knows much."

Today the quest for answers to life's persistent questions can almost always be found by "Googling" the question. The secret, of course, is to know what question to ask. The Internet is the 21st century's desk top library.

This brings me to the issue concerning the suggestion of the possibility of the Retirement Fund investing in CUC. I became curious as to the whether—in my professional opinion—such a reckless and unjustified use of members' money might be a dereliction of duty on the part of the board of trustees' fiduciary responsibility to Fund members.

There has been far too much playing around with the members' future financial security on the part of the administration and the Legislature and the members should organize themselves to protect their money or at least become knowledgeable as to the obligation Fund trustees have in the prudent investment of members' financial resources.

There have been a growing number of class-action lawsuits recently brought on behalf of participants in retirement plans covered by the federal "Employee Retirement Income Security Act" (ERISA). This federal law has raised the level of concern among trustees and sponsors.

Fiduciary responsibilities and personal liability have become of increasing interest and concern of trustees throughout the United States. While ERISA covers more than 700,000 retirement plans of public and private firms, nonprofit and government plans are subject to the same rules. Class action lawsuits have increased concern throughout the country about the proper execution of fiduciary responsibilities.

In May 2004, the Department of Labor launched its Fiduciary Education Campaign called, "Meeting Your Fiduciary Responsibilities" for those charged with the management of member's pensions. (See the DOL website at http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/publications/fiduciaryresponsibility.html).

As the website points out, "While ignorance was never bliss for plan fiduciaries, the campaign sets the stage for DOL to say 'we told you so'." All trustees of pension plans have thus been forewarned, according to the federal government.

A person is a fiduciary if one performs fiduciary acts such as a trustee, an investment advisor, any and all individuals exercising discretion in the administration of a plan, all members of a plan's administrative committee and—get this—"those who select committee officials." I leave it to the reader to "guess who that is."

"Under ERISA, fiduciaries have potential liability for the actions of their co-fiduciaries, so a fiduciary cannot escape liability by pointing fingers. Furthermore, while hiring investment advisors may result in shared responsibility, it doesn't eliminate it. A fiduciary is required to use due diligence in hiring and regularly monitoring the activities of all service providers to the plan. While delegation is often necessary in administrative activities, it is a double edged sword in a fiduciary environment."

Think about that in terms of considering an investment in CUC. The Buck Research website points out that a "plan's trustee's responsibility extends under both common law and ERISA to collect plan contributions including delinquent contributions."

The DOL's Field Assistance Bulletin (FAB - 2008-01) "has clarified that the failure of a plan's named or functional fiduciary to assign the obligation to monitor and collect delinquent plan contributions to either a trustee, an investment manager or a fiduciary who will direct a limited power trustee may result in liability to the fiduciary."

A person is a fiduciary if one performs fiduciary acts such as a trustee, an investment advisor, any and all individuals exercising discretion in the administration of a plan, all members of a plan's administrative committee and—get this—'those who select committee officials.' I leave it to the reader to "guess who that is."

I presume a Buck consultant has briefed the trustees on the above since, to my knowledge, the firm has performed work for the Fund—but I think it's also very helpful for those members who might be interested to also know a bit about fiduciary responsibility as concerns those who are managing their money.

My dear sweet granny said, "Billy, knowledge is power."

According to Buck, "The DOL found instances where plan documents and instruments were ambiguous with respect to monitoring and collecting delinquent plan contributions. When instruments are ambiguous, employer contributions are delinquent if not made within a reasonable time after the obligation to make the contribution arises."

I've been harping for years about the central government's failure to honor its legal obligation to the Fund by failing to make its employer contribution payments. Now even the Feds are concerned about this "deadbeat" issue that seems to prevail among many pensions.

The primary responsibility of fiduciaries is to run the plan solely in the interest of participants and beneficiaries for the exclusive purpose of providing benefits and paying plan expenses. Fiduciaries who do not follow these principles of conduct may be personally liable to restore any losses to the plan, or to restore any profits made through improper use of plan assets, according to DOL.

Courts may take whatever action is appropriate against fiduciaries who breach their duties under ERISA, including their removal. ERISA applies to both the administration of employee pension and health benefit plans.

A fiduciary relationship to trust and confidence is one where the fiduciary holds or controls property for the benefit of another person acting solely in the interest of plan participants and their beneficiaries and with the exclusive purpose of providing benefits to them. This obviously involves carrying out their duties prudently.

In terms of legal liability, in ordinary cases, the standard of conduct is whether the individual has acted as any ordinary, reasonable prudent person would have behaved under the circumstances. However, as a fiduciary trustee, the individual is held to a much higher standard of conduct.

To meet the "prudent man" standard, fiduciaries must: make themselves reasonably knowledgeable about the options available; investigate a variety of options and compare choices with competing offerings; keep detailed records showing how the final decision was made and be aware of which due diligence processes fall to the fiduciary.

Think of the above in terms of investing in CUC.

Letter to the Editor

'Impeachment' vs 'recall'

During the last few weeks, there has been quite a lot of talk regarding impeachment of the NMI's elected leadership. Some are saying there is ample cause for the House to bring "charges" and thus "impeach" the Governor or Lt. Governor or both, and for the Senate to hold "trial" and either uphold the charges brought by the House, thus immediately removing the person(s) charged, or to deny the charges and allow the person(s) to continue in office.

On the other hand, other people have voiced their choice of methods to "get rid of" an elected official as being "recall", apparently feeling that the combined forces of the House and Senate would not undertake such an impeachment process for various personal "motives." They are probably right; besides it takes some degree of expertise—and intestinal fortitude—to bring charges and carry out the process and there is some doubt as to whether this exists on Capital Hill.

But I just wonder if the people asking for a recall petition, while at the same time complaining that these leaders must be removed immediately because we simply don't have time to wait another 16 months or so for an election to place someone new in the offices, understand the differences between "impeachment" and "recall."

On the one hand, impeachment is carried out by the Legislature who is elected by the people they represent and who are supposed to carry out the expressed wishes of the majority of the public. It can be a rapid process, requiring only days or weeks to accomplish and need not involve proven criminal actions but could be for such actions (or in-action) as dereliction of duty, malfeasance in office or public corruption; all rather vague terms, but potent when properly applied by one's public or political foes.

The office holder being impeached can be removed from office immediately and in the case of the Governor, the Lt. Governor would then step in. If both the Governor and Lt. Governor should be removed at the same time or in succession, the Senate President would then step in—and on goes the succession until the next general election.

But what about "recall?" It appears that many believe that the *voters* have the right to recall an elected leader and that if the voters do so, through petition, then the person "recalled" must leave office. Well, think again, it doesn't work that way. The next paragraph is a direct excerpt from the NMI Constitution:

Article Ix: Initiative, Referendum and Recall

Section 3: Recall. Elected public officials are subject to recall by the voters of the Commonwealth or of the island, islands or district from which elected.

A) A recall petition shall identify the public official sought to be recalled by name and office, state the grounds for recall, and be signed by at least forty percent of the persons qualified to vote for the office occupied by the public official.

B) A recall petition shall be filed with the attorney general for certification that the requirements of section 3(a) have been met.

C) A recall petition certified by the attorney general shall be submitted to the voters at the next regular general election unless special elections are provided by law for this purpose.

D) A recall petition shall take effect thirty days after the date of the election if approved by two-thirds of the persons qualified to vote for the office involved.

E) A recall petition may not be filed against a public official more than once in any year or during the first six months of a term in office.

Source: Original provision, unaltered (ratified 1977, effective 1978).

As you can see, "recall" just will not "get rid of" the person recalled, at least not quickly! In the first place, 40 percent of the registered voters must sign the petition; then it must be "certified" by the AG, who serves at the Governor's whim. Even if it were "certified", no action can take place until the *next* regular general election and even then two-thirds of the registered voters must vote "yes." I sincerely doubt that such percentages could ever be achieved in the NMI—and it is abundantly clear that the framers of the Constitution knew this.

So what is the purpose of having the ability to "recall" an elected official in the NMI? There isn't any that I can see unless the recalled official was not up for re-election at the next general election. If we must wait until the next regular general election to "vote" to remove (recall) the elected official who was up for re-election anyway, then why not just vote for the other guy instead? Do we really think the Legislature will establish a "special election" for this purpose? Recall, as enacted in the NMI Constitution, just doesn't make any sense.

So there you have it. Want to get rid of them *now*? Then there is no choice except for the public to demand their elected legislators take the action to do so. But what if they don't, or won't? I'm afraid the "public" is left out in the cold on this one—until the next election where you will at least have the choice to vote against some of them, not all, but the message will be clear.

So look at the record of the incumbent(s) and use your vote wisely. From what is occurring today, this may be the *only* message from the voters that will be understood and heeded.

Dr. Thomas D. Arkle Jr.
San Jose, Tinian

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

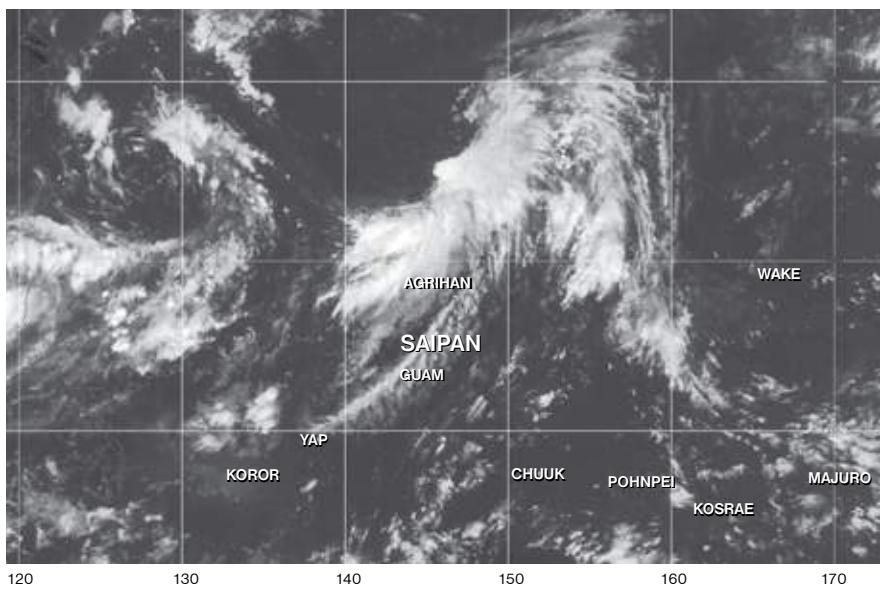
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲84	▼76
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼72
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼74
Majuro	Cloudy	▲86	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲61	▼49
Beijing	Rain	▲77	▼61
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼79
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲83	▼75
London	Showers	▲68	▼53
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲78	▼62
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲61	▼49
Miami	Rain	▲87	▼81
New York	Thunderstorms	▲80	▼62
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲82	▼67
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲78	▼57
Pusan	Sunny	▲81	▼63
Rome	Sunny	▲86	▼62
Salem	Sunny	▲75	▼45
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲68	▼55
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼60
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼64
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼64

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level low is centered northeast of Guam near 23N148E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found within the northeast and southeast quadrants of the low between 18N and 25N from 153E to 160E. Also, scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring north and east of Saipan within 60 miles of a line from 19N146E to 16N146E to 16N148E to 17N151E. A surface trough runs southeastward from 12N147E to EQ150E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with this trough are found west of Chuuk between the equator and 11N from 144E to 150E. Converging surface winds are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 150 miles of a line from 7N150E to 4N160E. This area covers Chuuk. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring northwest of Yap between 12N and 18N west of 133E. Convergent trade-winds are generating scattered showers east of Wake Island between 17N and 21N east of 175E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
12:35AM Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
8:56AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
5:01PM Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
9:40PM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05AM	6:23 PM
Wednesday	6:05AM	6:23 PM
Thursday	6:05AM	6:22 PM
Friday	6:05AM	6:21 PM
Saturday	6:05AM	6:20 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:53PM	12:20AM
Wednesday	2:41PM	1:13AM
Thursday	3:27PM	2:06AM
Friday	4:09PM	3:00AM
Saturday	4:49PM	3:53AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7

Manila-Guam

CO 892	11:45am	8:25pm+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
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Business

US government takes over mortgage giants

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER and ALAN ZIBEL
AP BUSINESS WRITERS

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Bush administration's seizure of troubled mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac is potentially a $200 billion bet that it will help reverse a prolonged housing and credit crisis.

The historic move announced Sunday won support from both presidential campaigns, but private analysts worried that it may not be enough to stabilize the slumping housing market given the glut of vacant homes for sale, rising foreclosures, rising unemployment and weak consumer confidence.

Officials announced that both giant institutions were being placed in a government conservatorship, a move that could end up costing taxpayers billions of dollars. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said allowing the companies to fail would have extracted a far higher price on consumers by driving up the cost of home loans and all other types of borrowing because the failures would "create great turmoil in our financial markets here at home and around the globe."

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com predicted that 30-year mortgage rates, currently averaging 6.35 percent nationwide, could dip to close to 5.5 percent. That's because investors will be more willing to buy the debt issued by Fannie and Freddie—and at lower rates—since the federal government is now explicitly standing behind that debt.

"Effectively, the federal government has now become the nation's mortgage lender," he said. "This takes a major financial threat off the table."

Futures on all major stock indexes rose about 2 percent in electronic trading Sunday night, another sign of investor relief about the takeover plan

The companies, which together own or guarantee about $5 trillion in home loans, about half the nation's total, have lost $14 billion in the last year and are likely to pile up billions more in losses until the housing market begins to recover.

The Treasury Department said it was prepared to put up as much as $100 billion over time in each of the companies if needed to keep them from going broke, in exchange for senior preferred stock. Treasury will immediately be issued $1 billion of such stock from each company, which will pay 10 percent interest. Further purchases of preferred stock will be triggered if quarterly audits find that the companies' capital cushion is below prudent standards.

The government, which will receive warrants representing ownership stakes of 79.9 percent in each company, is hoping that its moves will reassure nervous investors that they can continue to buy the debt of the two companies.

In a statement, President Bush said, "Americans should be confident that the actions taken today will strengthen our ability to weather the housing correction and are critical to returning the economy to stronger sustained growth."

Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama issued a statement agreeing that some form of intervention was necessary, and promised, "I will be reviewing the details of the Treasury plan and monitoring its impact to determine whether it achieves the key benchmarks I believe are necessary to address this crisis."

AP

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, Jr., left, and Federal Housing Finance Agency Director James Lockhart, right, exchanges places during their news conference in Washington, Sunday, Sept. 7, 2008 on the bailout of mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Foodmakers plan big ad campaigns in down economy

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Foodmakers may be worried about higher costs for key ingredients, pushing through price increases and still maintaining their profits. But for big names like Sara Lee, Kraft and others, these slim times don't mean doing away with their advertising budgets.

While the food companies, like other large advertisers, pulled back on their spending as the economy soured, many big foodmakers plan advertising punches in the coming months. The shift comes as consumers worried about rising costs eat at home more and shop with budgets in mind—a trend that's leading many of them to generics, or private-label brands.

So while automakers may be less apt to advertise right now—SUV, anyone?—food companies say they are jumping back in the game. If they want to keep selling their own brands, they've got to keep them in the minds of shoppers.

From Sara Lee Corp.'s new ad campaign with The Walt Disney Co.'s "High School Musical 3: Senior Year" to Kraft's new pizza commercials preaching "DiGiornonomics," consumers should expect to be blitzed by food advertisements in the next year.

Many major food makers are promising boosts to their advertising in the new fiscal year or reporting their spending is up in the most recent one. Their ads seem to be hitting a variety of outlets, including print, television, in-store promotion and the Internet—which marketers say helps them hone in on consumers and get the most bang for their advertising buck.

Analysts say it makes sense, even as these companies grapple with high prices for oil, corn and grains.

Consumers aren't going to change what they eat as they pull away from restaurants, said Harry Balzer, vice president of consumer research firm the NPD Group, and an expert on American eating patterns. They're just going to look for bargains, and that can mean changing brands.

"It's very hard for us to change our behavior. If we like ice cream, we're going to continue eating ice cream," he said. "Now the question is going to be what brand you're going to buy."

OPEC considers cutting oil production

VIENNA, Austria (AP)—With oil prices off nearly 30 percent from their highs of almost $150 a barrel, OPEC oil ministers are considering what was unthinkable just a few weeks ago—cutting back output to prop up the price of crude.

No one is predicting much of a cutback—if any at all. Still, such a move would not even have been thought of with oil prices setting record after record back in July.

But the bull run appears to have paused, if not ended, which means a new look at options for Tuesday's meeting of the 13 ministers at OPEC's Vienna headquarters.

Since crude surged to a record $147.27 a barrel on July 11, it has tumbled by over $40, or more than 27 percent. Back then, OPEC's main concern was pushing back against arguments from the U.S. and other key consumers that an output increase was needed to end rocketing prices. Oil ministers insisted there was adequate supply to meet demand, and blamed speculators and a weak U.S. dollar for crude's stellar rise.

But now, the greenback has strengthened, world demand has decreased due to creaky economies, traders' appetites for commodities have cooled—and suddenly the market appears to have turned bearish. Oil markets, however, will also be keeping a close eye on Hurricane Ike, which on Sunday was an extremely dangerous Category 3 storm projected to move into the oil-producing Gulf of Mexico after passing over Cuba.

Light, sweet crude for October delivery fell $1.66 to settle at $106.23 a barrel Friday on the New York Mercantile Exchange - its lowest close since early April.

The downward spiral has led to calls from OPEC price hawk Iran—the group's second-largest producer—to reduce output from the nearly 30.5 million barrels a day being pumped last month by the organization's members.

Gulf oil and gas producers give Ike a serious look

NEW YORK (AP)—Efforts to bring oil and gas production back online in the Gulf of Mexico slowed Sunday as Hurricane Ike barreled toward the nation's energy complex, likely to be the second hurricane to slam into the Gulf in as many weeks.

Royal Dutch Shell said it would keep staffing at its offshore installations to a minimum as it monitors the storm, which was described as "extremely dangerous" by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Sunday.

Other producers were also watching Ike, which was about 90 miles northeast of Cuba and traveling fast. The storm could strike the U.S. coast by midweek.

"Offshore oil and gas operators in the Gulf of Mexico who are re-boarding platforms and rigs and restoring production following Hurricane Gustav are now starting to take precautions for Hurricane Ike," the U.S. Minerals Management Service said on Sunday.

According to the latest storm track, the hurricane could strike any where from Florida to Texas.

Ike is now a Category 4 storm with sustained winds of 135 miles an hour and is creating surges of as much as 18 feet above normal tide levels. Those swells will likely hit portions of the Southeast United States over the next couple days.

More than a quarter of the personnel from the 717 manned platforms in the Gulf of Mexico have been evacuated, and 10 of the 121 Gulf rigs have had staff removed, according to the U.S. Minerals Management Service.

Nearly 80 percent of all oil production in the Gulf, or about 1.3 million barrels per day, has been shut in, according to the MMS. About 70 percent of all natural gas production is off, or about 7.4 billion cubic feet.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Advertising group opposes Yahoo-Google pact

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A group representing big-spending national advertisers said Sunday it sent a letter to the Justice Department asserting an online ad partnership between Yahoo Inc. and Google Inc. will stifle competition and likely raise prices. The Association of National Advertisers said on its Web site that the letter to Thomas Barnett, assistant attorney general in charge of the Justice Department's antitrust division, came after a "comprehensive, independent analysis" and meetings with Google and Yahoo executives. The ANA did not disclose the text of the letter but said it states its concern that "a Google-Yahoo partnership will control 90 percent of search advertising inventory and ... will likely diminish competition, increase concentration of market power, limit choices currently available and potentially raise prices to advertisers for high quality, affordable search advertising." The ANA says it represents 400 companies—including Apple Inc., The Coca-Cola Co., Exxon Mobil Corp., Proctor & Gamble Co. and General Motors Corp.—with 9,000 brands.

Auto industry to press Congress for $50B in loans

WASHINGTON (AP)—Auto industry allies hope to secure up to $50 billion in government loans this month that would pay to modernize plants and help struggling car makers build more fuel-efficient vehicles. With Congress returning this coming week from its summer break, the industry plans an aggressive lobbying campaign for the low-interest loans. The situation is growing dire after months of tumbling sales, high gasoline prices and consumers' abandoning profitable trucks and sport utility vehicles. Lawmakers authorized $25 billion in loans in last year's energy bill to help the companies build fuel-efficient vehicles such as hybrids and electric vehicles. With credit tight, automakers and suppliers now want lawmakers to come up with the money for the program—and expand the pool of money available to $50 billion over three years.

Nation

McCain takes on GOP and Bush along with Obama

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—Barack Obama isn't John McCain's only opponent. Sometimes McCain sounds like he's running almost as hard against President Bush and the Republican Party as he is against Obama, his Democratic rival for the White House.

The GOP is guilty of indulging in a spending spree of taxpayers' money, McCain laments. They haven't solved huge problems such as the looming insolvency of Social Security and Medicare, passing on huge IOUs and perplexing issues to future generations instead of fixing them as they had promised. He doesn't name Bush but the implication is clear: It happened on his watch and he signed bills that made the deficit soar.

"We began to value power over principle," McCain said in Colorado Springs, Colo. Some lawmakers turned corrupt and wound up in jail, he told a rally in Albuquerque, N.M.

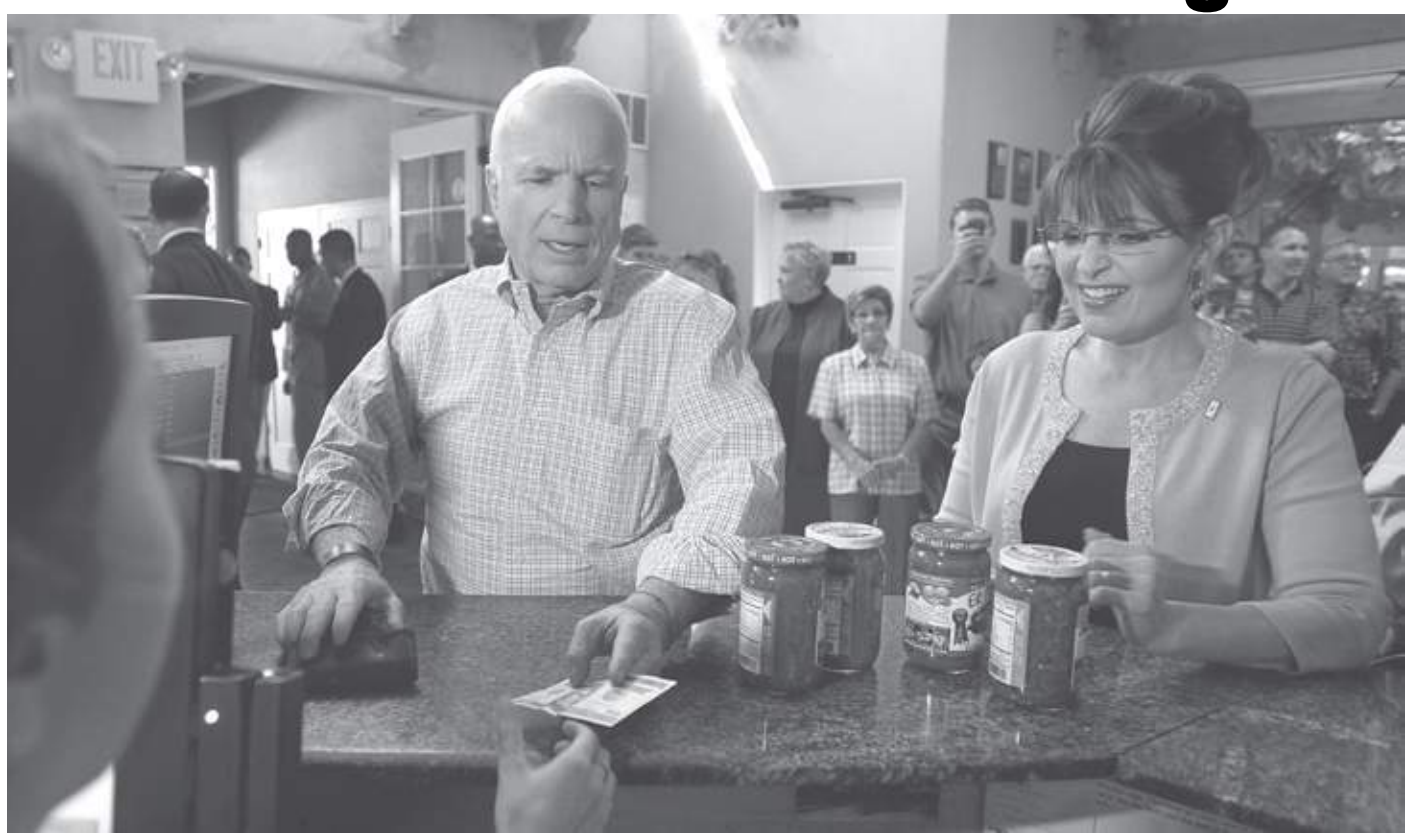
"Change is coming, change is coming," McCain promised, projecting an image of independence and political populism.

One of his challenges is to separate himself from the unpopular incumbent in the White House and fight against Obama's charge that a McCain presidency would amount to a third term for Bush.

"On the core issues, the economy and the war, he has been joined to Bush at the hip," said Democratic pollster Mark Mellman. "On the other hand, Bush is a lead weight dragging him down. He has to rely on rhetoric to separate (himself) but he can't separate himself on policies important to the American people."

Eager to keep control of the White House, Republicans are keeping their mouths shut about McCain's barbs.

McCain's criticism rankles White House officials who are eager to build up Bush's legacy. They are quick to strike hard at anything they perceive as criticism from almost any quarter, particularly the media. But Bush aides are giving McCain a free pass even as they quietly grumble about how pointed his attacks have become.



AP

Republican presidential candidate, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz, pays for four bottles of salsa at El Pinto restaurant for himself and his vice presidential running mate, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, right, Sunday afternoon Sept. 7, 2008 in Albuquerque, N.M.

Much has changed in Wash. elections since 2004 polls

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP)—Washington state's last governor's race ended in controversy with three counts, a court challenge and an astonishingly close margin of victory for the current governor.

Four years later, after a detailed process of election reform, the secretary of state is assuring voters that "voter rolls are the cleanest they have ever been" for the long-anticipated rematch between Republican Dino Rossi and Gov. Chris Gregoire.

"These measures are designed to make the system better, but they're also designed to improve voter trust and confidence in the system," said state elections director Nick Handy.

In the 2004 face-off between Rossi and Gregoire, Rossi won the initial count by 261 votes, but then watched his lead shrink to 42 in a machine recount. After a hand recount, Gregoire was pronounced the winner by 129 votes out of 2.9 million cast - the smallest margin of victory in percentage terms of any statewide election in the nation's history.

Hanna rolls into Connecticut

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—Tropical Storm Hanna rolled into Connecticut on Sunday, bringing heavy rain, wind gusts and oppressive humidity.

The storm, which came ashore in the Carolinas on Saturday, is expected to continue dousing New England through the morning.

A flash-flood warning was issued for Fairfield County and for people in low-lying areas and near flood-prone rivers statewide.

Meteorologists at the National Weather Service's office in Taunton, Mass., said rain was falling at the rate of up to 1 inch per hour.

Final amounts could reach up to 6 inches by Sunday morning.

As of 5 a.m. EDT, Hanna had maximum sustained winds near 50 mph and was centered 60 miles north of Chatham, Mass. The storm, blamed for disastrous flooding and more than 100 deaths in Haiti, was moving northeast near 36 mph.

No major damage was reported in New York, but it took just a few hours for Hanna to drop a month's worth of rain in the metropolitan area.

The storm was responsible for flooding highways, delaying flights and halting the U.S. Open tennis tournament. Thousands of customers remain without power, mostly on Long Island.

At least three inches of rain fell over parts of New York City and nearly six inches was measured in the northern suburb of Rockland County. The metropolitan area generally gets three to four inches of rain in September.

Owner: Ride's over at Coney Island amusement park

NEW YORK (AP)—When reports circulated over the weekend of a last-minute deal to keep Coney Island's historic Astroland amusement park open for another year, owner Carol Hill Albert was not amused.

Indeed, her tone was bitter as she described plans to close the park Sunday night in lieu of an agreement with the city or with private developer Thor Equities, which have competing plans for the 3-acre Brooklyn site.

"Despite rumors to the contrary, there are absolutely no negotiations going on, and there never were," said Albert, whose family has owned Astroland for more than four decades.

She said uncertainty about Astroland's future had created stress for its 400 employees and hampered the acquisition of spare parts for the rides, and that the park would close permanently.

"We cannot risk the safety of our customers," she said.

The Cyclone, the famous Coney Island roller coaster, and the 150-foot-tall Wonder Wheel, a Ferris wheel, are separately owned and landmarked by the city so they are unaffected by the closing.

AP

A family poses in front of Astroland Park in Coney Island, New York, Sunday, Sept. 7, 2008. The owner of Coney Island's landmark Astroland amusement park is calling it quits.

ACROSS THE NATION

Once-powerful Pa. senator faces long fraud trial

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A longtime power broker in Pennsylvania politics earned nearly $100,000 a year as a state senator, up to $1 million a year as a rainmaking lawyer and millions more from the sale of a family bank. However, prosecutors say freewheeling Philadelphia Democrat Vincent Fumo used little of his own money as he took yachting vacations with friends, spent lavishly on a 33-room city brownstone and hired operatives to spy on ex-wives and political foes. Fumo faces trial Monday in federal court on charges alleging he used $3.5 million in what he called "OPM"—other people's money—to keep his political machine well oiled and fund a lifestyle that included three vacation homes and heated sidewalks outside his mansion. The trial is expected to last a full three months, after a week of jury selection. Fumo is accused of misusing nearly $2 million in Senate funds and of raiding the coffers of a neighborhood charity after using his political clout to steer $27 million in corporate donations to the charity.

Deadly crashes bring FAA focus on Reno air races

RENO, Nev. (AP)—It's billed as "the world's fastest motor sport." Critics have another label, calling the Reno National Championship Air Races "the world's most dangerous motor sport" after three pilots were killed during competition last year and another racer was killed during a practice flight Saturday. The crashes have prompted the Federal Aviation Administration to place greater scrutiny on the races, and local school officials for a time reconsidered whether to continue student field trips to the event. Mike Houghton, president of the races, insists that organizers go out of their way to make the event as safe as possible in an inherently dangerous sport. "Safety, safety, safety is the one thing people get tired of hearing me talk about," Houghton said. "But in every competition there is risk, and ours is the same.

Afghan tribal leader set for trial in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—By his own account, former Afghan tribal leader Bashir Noorzai resisted the Soviet Union's invasion of his country three decades ago, then put down his weapons when U.S. forces showed up following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. "Afghanistan is in anarchy," the one-time Taliban ally recalls telling his tribesmen. "Americans are establishing our future government." Rather than thank him, Noorzai claims the U.S. government betrayed him: In 2005, he was branded a most-wanted drug kingpin, lured to New York and arrested. Noorzai faces trial beginning Monday on charges he smuggled $50 million worth of heroin into the United States—part of a current parade of prosecutions in New York City involving reputed drug lords from abroad.

Asia

Pakistan suicide blast death toll reaches 35

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—The death toll in a massive suicide blast in Pakistan's militant-plagued northwest reached 35, officials said Sunday, as the country prepared for Benazir Bhutto's widower to take over as president.

The attack Saturday demonstrated the severe militant threat facing the Muslim nation and President-elect Asif Ali Zardari, who overwhelmingly won lawmakers' votes the same day as the blast and was expected to be sworn in by Tuesday.

Zardari has vowed to be tough on militancy, a stance that plays well in Washington, where U.S. officials worried about rising violence in neighboring Afghanistan have pushed Pakistan to clamp down on extremist havens within its borders.

Nonetheless, Zardari has a fine line to walk. Coming down too hard on insurgent activity risks inflaming Pakistani public opinion and even a tribal uprising.

At the same time, he faces pressure from opponents to reduce the powers of the presidency, something he and his party have vowed to do without specifying the extent.

Ahsan Iqbal, a spokesman for the chief opposition party, told Dawn News Television that Zardari's election was a stop on the way to restoring full democracy in Pakistan, and that the transition required giving up some presidential powers.

The president has the power to dissolve Parliament and appoint army chiefs, and chairs the joint civilian-military committee that controls Pakistan's nuclear weapons.

"Parliament is sovereign," Zardari told a group of well-wishers on Saturday. "This president shall be subservient to the Parliament."

Dozens were wounded in Saturday's attack, in which an explosives-packed pickup truck blew up at a police checkpoint on the outskirts of Peshawar, the capital of the North West Frontier Province.

Television footage showed a blast crater 3 feet deep, destroyed vehicles and pieces of debris scattered across a large area. Some buildings in a nearby market collapsed, leading to frantic rescue efforts.

Taliban spokesman Maulvi Umar said Taliban militants operating in the area carried out the attack but he indicated - as officials had theorized based on the large amount of explosives involved - that they had a different target in mind. He speculated the driver feared being discovered at the checkpoint and decided to detonate.

Thailand PM faces court battle over cooking show

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Thailand's embattled prime minister appeared in court Monday to defend himself against accusations he violated the constitution by hosting a televised cooking show while in office.

Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej would be forced to resign if found guilty by the Constitutional Court. The court hearing compounded his troubles as anti-government protesters occupied the grounds of his office complex for a second week.

Before taking office seven months ago, Samak had hosted a popular TV cooking show called "Tasting and Complaining," a mix of traditional Thai cooking and rants on the subjects of Samak's choice.

Samak made a few appearances on the show after becoming prime minister, prompting a group of senators to petition the court on grounds that an acting prime minister is not allowed under the constitution to work with private companies.

The case is the latest embarrassment for Samak, who has not been able to enter his office, the Government House, since protesters stormed the compound Aug. 26. They have refused to leave until he resigns.

A new mediation effort by Parliament was due to start Monday, offering a glimmer of hope for ending the country's political crisis.

Senate speaker Prasopsuk Boondet, who was appointed mediator by Parliament last week, was to meet with Thailand's opposition leader and the heads of the six political parties that make up Samak's ruling coalition government.

"I am optimistic that there is still a way out of the ongoing stalemate," Prasopsuk told reporters ahead of the meeting.

The possibility of a true breakthrough was seen as limited, since the protest leaders have ruled out any negotiation unless Samak resigns.

The standoff stems from a campaign by the People's Alliance for Democracy—a loose-knit group of royalists, wealthy and middle-class urban residents, and union activists—to oust Samak and his elected government, accusing it of corruption and violating the constitution.

NO EVACUATION AP

Villagers, who refused to get evacuated, receive food packets from Indian Air Force helicopter in a village near Chattapur, 400 kilometers (248 miles) northeast of Patna, India, Sunday, Sept. 7, 2008. Authorities place advertisements in newspapers aimed at least 50,000 people in villages and towns in flood-ravaged northern India who are refusing to leave their homes as flood waters receded somewhat, urging them to head for safer areas. Officials said thousands have ignored their calls and taken the receding waters as a sign that the danger has passed.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Democrats retain veto power in Hong Kong election

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong's pro-democracy camp has won more than a third of seats in legislative elections, retaining its veto power over major legislation. Results announced Monday show the opposition has claimed at least 22 of 60 seats in the legislature. The key threshold for pro-democracy parties was 21 seats—a number that would allow them to block major legislation that requires a two-thirds majority for passage. The pro-democracy camp had been expected to suffer a setback in the election after China gave a timetable for democratic reform in Hong Kong last year. Half of Hong Kong's legislative seats are directly elected by voters, with the rest chosen by special interest groups.

Landslides leave 27 dead or missing in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Two landslides triggered by heavy rains buried more than 20 houses in a remote gold-mining village in the southern Philippines, leaving at least 11 people dead and 16 others missing, officials said Sunday. Small stone houses and huts at the foot of the mountain village of Masara were destroyed Saturday by falling mud and rocks, killing six villagers and injuring 17 others. Another landslide struck the village early Sunday, killing five more people, officials said. The landslides, which cascaded down a mountainside with frightening booms, buried about 28 houses and forced up to 5,000 people in Masara and nearby villages to run from their homes, said Mayor Voltaire Regalado of Maco township, which includes Masara. Regalado said he declared a state of emergency in Masara to allow the rapid release of disaster relief funds.

NATO: 1 soldier killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—NATO says a roadside blast have killed one of its soldiers in southern Afghanistan. The military alliance says in a statement that the victim was on patrol at the time of the blast Sunday. NATO did not disclose the soldier's nationality or the exact location of the explosion. Southern Afghanistan is the center of the Taliban-led insurgency. Militants regularly attack Afghan and foreign troops with roadside bombs.

US re-examines Afghan civilian deaths from attack

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The U.S. military said Sunday it has new evidence about civilian casualties from an American attack that Afghanistan says killed scores of women and children and it is sending a senior officer to the country to review its initial finding that no more than seven civilians died.

The military did not say what new information had emerged. But Afghan and Western officials say Afghanistan's intelligence agency and the U.N. both have video of the aftermath of the Aug. 22 airstrikes on Azizabad village showing dozens of dead women and children.

"In light of emerging evidence pertaining to civilian casualties in the August 22 counter-insurgency operation in the Shindand District, Herat province, I feel it is prudent to request that U.S. Central Command send a general officer to review the U.S. investigation and its findings with respect to this new evidence," Gen. David McKiernan—the senior U.S. officer in Afghanistan and the commander of the 40-nation NATO-led mission—said in a statement.

"The people of Afghanistan have our commitment to get to the truth," he added.

The attack has further strained relations between Afghanistan's U.S.-backed President Hamid Karzai and the foreign forces operating against the Taliban and al-Qaida in the country.

An Afghan government commission has said 90 civilians, including 60 children and 15 women, died in the bombings, a finding that the U.N. backed in its own initial report.

Taiwan 'hero' said to have sordid past in Reunion

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—A Taiwanese fisherman who claimed to have been stranded on an Indian Ocean island for 27 years turned out to be a convicted killer and sex offender instead of a skillful survivor, a Taiwanese newspaper reported Monday.

When Hu Wen-hu returned to Taiwan in mid-August, he told court officials his boat dropped him on Reunion Island by accident in 1981. He said he had returned to Taiwan to get identification papers so he could apply for a residence permit for Reunion—which is French territory—and marry a local woman.

Taiwanese media hailed him as a modern-day Robinson Crusoe, after the fictional shipwrecked castaway, and carried detailed reports about his purported romances with three Reunion women.

But while Daniel Defoe's 17th century hero was washed up on a virtually uninhabited Caribbean island, Reunion, east of Madagascar, has a population of 700,000 and is fully plugged into the modern world.

On Monday, Taiwan's United Daily News, citing the Web site of the French-language *Le Journal de la Reunion*, reported that Hu served five years in jail for killing a man in 1985 and served 18 months for a sex offense involving a 7-year-old girl in 2006.

UDN said Hu acknowledged he was jailed for murder but denied the allegation of sexual assault.

"I did not intend to hide anything but I was too embarrassed to tell," Hu was quoted as saying.

World

Killer Ike hits Cuba after lashing Bahamas, Haiti

CAMAGUEY, Cuba (AP)—Hurricane Ike roared onto Cuba Sunday after destroying houses and crops on low-lying islands and worsening floods in Haiti that have already killed more than 300 people.

With Ike forecast to sweep the length of Cuba and possibly hit Havana head-on, hundreds of thousands evacuated to shelters or higher ground. To the north, residents of the Florida Keys fled up a narrow highway, fearful that the "extremely dangerous" hurricane could hit them Tuesday.

At least 58 people died as Ike's winds and rain swept Haiti Sunday—and officials found three more bodies from a previous storm—raising the nation's death toll from four tropical storms in less than a month to 319. A Dominican man was crushed by a falling tree.

Ike first slammed into the Turks and Caicos and the southernmost Bahamas islands as a Category 4 hurricane, but thousands rode out the storm in shelters and there was no immediate word of deaths on the low-lying islands.

Ike made landfall in eastern Cuba late Sunday night, said meteorologist Todd Kimberlain at the U.S. National Hurricane Center, and was forecast to hit Havana, the capital of 2 million people with many vulnerable old buildings, before it moves into the Gulf of Mexico early Tuesday morning.

AP

Fishing boats sit on land as Hurricane Ike approaches in Havana, Sunday, Sept. 7, 2008. The U.S. National Hurricane Center projected Ike's eye would strike Cuba's northern coast Sunday night and possibly hit Havana, the capital of 2 million people with many vulnerable old buildings, by Monday night.

At 11 p.m. EDT (0300 GMT), Ike was a Category 3 hurricane with top sustained winds of 120 mph (195 kph). It was centered near Cabo Lucretia, about 135 miles (220 kms) east of Camaguey, moving westward at 13 mph (20 kph).

State television broadcast images of the storm surge washing over coastal homes in the easternmost city of Baracoa, and reported that dozens of dwellings were damaged beyond repair.

An informal AP tally of figures being released sporadically by eastern Cuban provinces indicated that more than 770,000 people had been evacuated by Sunday evening. Former President Fidel Castro released a written statement calling on Cubans to heed security measures to ensure no one dies.

Foreign tourists were pulled out from vulnerable beach resorts, workers rushed to protect coffee plants and other crops, and plans were under way to distribute food and cooking oil to disaster areas.

"There's no fear here, but one has to be prepared. It could hit us pretty hard," said Ramon Olivera, gassing up his motorcycle in Camaguey, where municipal workers boarded up banks and restaurants before heavy rain started falling.

More than 100 people waited in chaotic bread lines at each of the numerous government bakeries around town as families hoarded supplies before the storm. And on the provincial capital's outskirts, trucks and dented school buses brought about 1,000 evacuees to the sprawling campus of an art school.

Classrooms at the three-story school built on stilts were filled with metal bunk beds. The approaching hurricane brought a stiff breeze through the open windows.

Mirtha Perez, a 65-year-old retiree, said hardly anyone was left in her nearby town of Salome.

"It's a huge evacuation," she said. "We are waiting and asking God to protect us and that nothing happens to us."

Strong gusts and steady rains fell at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay in southeast Cuba, where all ferries were secured and beaches were off limits. The military said cells containing the detainees—about 255 men suspected of links to the Taliban and al-Qaida—are hurricane-proof. But the base was spared the strongest winds.

Georgian president vows to reclaim 2 provinces

TBILISI, Georgia (AP)—On the eve of a European Union shuttle mission to convince Russia to pull its troops back to prewar positions, Georgia's president vowed Sunday to regain control of two breakaway provinces with the help of "the rest of the world."

A month after the Aug. 7 outbreak of war in the region and weeks after a cease-fire was approved, Russian troops remain entrenched deep inside Georgian territory.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy is due in Moscow on Monday at the head of an EU delegation charged with reducing tensions and ensuring Russian compliance with the cease-fire terms, which include withdrawing its troops to positions held before the fighting broke out. Russia says those troops are peacekeepers and that they are allowed under the accord.

Despite the presence of Russian troops on Georgian soil, President Mikhail Saakashvili said the West would help his country regain control of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, the separatist regions of Georgia recognized as independent nations by Moscow last month.

"Our territorial integrity will be restored, I am more convinced of this than ever," Saakashvili said in a televised appearance. "This will not be an easy process, but now this is a process between an irate Russia and the rest of the world."

"Our goal is the return of our territory and the peaceful unification of Georgia," he said.

In Moscow, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, who often taunts the West, insisted in an interview broadcast late Saturday that Russia was justified in its intervention in South Ossetia. He said there would be no cooling of ties with the West because the West depends on Russia's oil, gas and mineral wealth.

Egypt rock slide toll rises to 32

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—Hopes diminished Sunday for finding survivors among hundreds of people believed trapped beneath massive boulders that destroyed an impoverished neighborhood on Cairo's outskirts, killing at least 32 people, including whole extended families.

Anger and resentment mounted as authorities failed for a second day to get heavy machinery into the devastated shantytown to try to clear the large slabs that split away from the Muqattam cliffs early Saturday. Survivors among the 100,000 residents of the Dewika slum were also left to spend the night without shelter, despite government promises to provide it.

"The area turned into a mass grave," one bearded man shouted, while a tearful young woman in a black robe clutched a picture of a newlywed couple whose bodies remained trapped below.

Hundreds of anti-riot police in helmets and shields cordoned off the area to prevent journalists and residents from approaching the site. Only young residents who have been involved in the rescue efforts were allowed to get close.

Rice: Not wise to end Cuban economic embargo now

RABAT, Morocco (AP)—The Bush administration said Sunday it sees no wisdom now in ending an economic embargo against Cuba, a longtime demand the Havana government renewed as a way to speed aid after Hurricane Gustav swamped the island.

A U.S. offer to send a disaster assessment team was declined Saturday by the Cuban Foreign Ministry, which did not mention the $100,000 in humanitarian assistance that Washington also offered through nonprofit groups.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, wrapping up a trip to North Africa, told reporters that President Bush consistently has said the U.S. would be responsive "to a Cuban regime that is prepared to release political prisoners (and) has a process to get to free and fair elections." But, she added, "we can see nothing that suggests that has come about."

Cuba said Saturday it would rather Washington suspend restrictions on travel and the sale of food and other materials it needs to recover.

With another powerful storm, Hurricane Ike, bearing down, the Cuban ministry contended that "the only correct, ethical (action) ... would be the total and definitive elimination of the harsh and cruel economic, commercial and financial blockade applied over nearly a half century against our nation."

Rice said that did not seem possible under current conditions, with Raul Castro in charge after replacing his brother, Fidel, who stepped down in February.

"What we can't do is to have the transfer of power from one dictatorial regime to another," Rice said. "That is not acceptable in a Western Hemisphere that is democratic and it is not acceptable for the Cuban people. So I don't think in the context that we see now that the lifting of the embargo would be wise."

Last week, Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama issued a statement expressing sympathy for Cubans who had been hit hard by Gustav. He asked Bush "to immediately suspend restrictions on family remittances, visits and humanitarian care packages from Cuban Americans for a minimum of 90 days."

Also last week, five Cuban-American members of Congress urged the Bush administration to provide direct assistance to Gustav's victims in Cuba. They said, however, that aid could be provided without changing U.S. law to lift the restrictions.

Canada's prime minister calls early election

TORONTO (AP)—Canada's prime minister on Sunday triggered an early election, dissolving Parliament in a bid to bolster his party's grip on power in a vote next month that will be the country's third national ballot in four years.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper says he expects the Oct. 14 vote to produce another minority government but recent polls show the Conservatives could win the majority they need to rule without help from opposition parties.

Analysts said Harper's party has a better shot of winning now than if they had waited until being forced into a vote later when the Canadian economy might be worse off or after Canadians could be influenced by the U.S. presidential election results.

The Conservatives unseated the Liberal Party in 2006 after nearly 13 years in power but as a minority government have been forced to rely on opposition lawmakers to pass legislation and adopt budgets.

Overdrive

2009 Honda Fit: A lot of thought in a small package

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

BEAR MOUNTAIN, N.Y.—The new king of the hill is a subcompact car that has the utility of a minivan, the attitude of a sports coupe and the fuel economy of an automobile deemed socially acceptable in an era of high-priced gasoline.

"Socially acceptable" means "good," which is not enough to prompt a hallelujah chorus, especially not for a car as tiny as the front-wheel-drive Honda Fit.

Completely redesigned for 2009, a scant three years after its introduction in the United States, the Fit gets a combined city-highway 31 miles per gallon of regular unleaded fuel.

Again, that performance deserves no raves. But the genius of the Fit is its overall packaging and presentation. It is small enough on the outside to be blessed with the parking ease of a teeny-weeny Smart ForTwo but gifted with the interior space and versatility of a well-designed minivan.

The Fit's target audience includes men in their early 20s: often single, adventurous types not likely to be attracted to anything having a minivan persona. But they have nothing to fear.

The "minivan" reference speaks to the Fit's utility, which is astonishing for a subcompact car—perhaps the best in that category. The Fit, in fact, is the quintessential multipurpose vehicle, capable of carrying most of the toys of young, active living and of pulling duty as a people-hauler on daily commutes.

But the Fit's overwhelmingly practical nature does not relegate it to the status of drudge-mobile. It's a funky little car—a mini-tubular, bug-eyed, wide-mouthed thing with a "let's go" personality. It looks like it wants to do something fun, entertaining.

The Fit's body is tight, purpose-oriented—a motorized arrow. Honda's marketers call the car's styling "super-forward aero-form design," which is just a way of describing common sense. Arrows move through the air much more easily than boxes, and they consume less energy.

Similar sanity in design carries into the Fit's passenger cabin, which includes what Honda calls "the magic seat." That, too, is little more than applied common sense, a 60-40 split rear seat that falls flat to the floor—truly flat to the floor—at the flip of a lever. Working that lever instantly turns the Fit into a little van capable of handling 57.3 cubic feet of cargo, more than any of its subcompact rivals.

The seats can be arranged to handle tall loads, such as plants, that otherwise would be thrown willy-nilly around the back of a car, or long loads, such as surfboards. The design is remarkably intuitive. One wonders why Honda didn't think of it years ago and why so many of Honda's rivals don't offer similar accommodations in subcompact cars now.

Common sense increases joy of use, and that, in turn, adds to the Fit's fun factor. It's the seemingly little things, such as cup holders smartly placed in the left and right corners of the Fit's instrument panel, out of the way of gearshift levers and other things that could trigger spills. Why didn't the Chevrolet Aveo designers think of that? Instead, the Chevy people installed a retractable cup holder directly in front of the Aveo's manual gear lever—the perfect location for upsetting cups and dumping their contents.

The bottom line is that the Fit's designers really thought about what they were doing. They set out to make more than a little car that gets good fuel economy. They had a higher goal—to make a little car that people would like, even swear by.

They've done that with the new Fit. It offers good fuel economy, brilliant packaging and maximum utility, all in a little car with zippy acceleration and super handling. This one, folks, is hard to beat.

Completely redesigned for 2009, a scant three years after its introduction in the United States, the Honda Fit gets a combined city-highway 31 miles per gallon of regular unleaded fuel.

NUTS & BOLTS

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

COMPLAINT
The new Fit offers electronic stability control, which helps prevent steering errors from turning into rollover accidents, as optional equipment on the upscale Fit Sport. Hyundai offers electronic stability control as standard equipment. Honda should follow Hyundai's very good example.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING
The new Fit gets top marks in all three categories. It is one of the most enjoyable small cars on the road.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT
This is another car that is so ugly that it's cute. But it's design with a purpose, and form, in this case, greatly enhances function.

BODY STYLE/ LAYOUT
The 2009 Fit is a front-engine, front-wheel-drive subcompact car with four side doors and a rear hatch. It is available in base, or upscale "Sport," trim, which includes onboard navigation.

ENGINE/ TRANSMISSIONS
The new Fit comes with a 1.5-liter, inline four-cylinder, 16-valve engine that develops 117 horsepower at 6,600 revolutions per minute and 106 foot-pounds of torque at 4,800 rpm. A five-speed manual transmission is standard. A five-speed automatic is optional.

CAPACITIES
There are seats for five people. Cargo capacity can be arranged in a variety of ways. With rear seats folded, maximum cargo capacity is 57.3 cubic feet. Cargo volume is 20.6 cubic feet with those seats raised. The fuel tank holds 10.6 gallons of recommended regular unleaded gasoline.

MILEAGE
The base Fit can get 28 miles per gallon in the city and 35 mpg on the highway with the five-speed automatic transmission. Those numbers are slightly lower for the Fit Sport, which comes with extra equipment and weight.

SAFETY
The Fit's "advanced compatibility engineering" rigid body construction is designed to reduce the car's vulnerability in vehicle-to-vehicle crashes, while also reducing potential harm for pedestrians. Standard equipment includes antilock brakes, side and head air bags. Electronic stability control is available as an option on the Fit Sport. Buckle those seat belts.

PRICE
The 2009 Fit goes on sale in the United States this month. Prices will range from $14,550 for the base Fit to $18,760 for the Fit Sport with navigation, which included an estimated $670 destination charge. Prices are sourced from Honda.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE
Compare with Chevrolet Aveo, Hyundai Accent, Nissan Versa and Toyota Yaris. Fit sales in the United States rose 71.9 percent this year over 2007's numbers and are likely to continue rising. Some dealers will try to charge premiums.

CRUISIN'

Go-fast parts for early Pontiac

By GREG ZYLA
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: Greg, I'd like to know if there were any aftermarket high-performance or racing parts made for the 1949 to 1954 Pontiac inline flathead eight-cylinder engine? Maybe some aluminum cylinder heads, cams or dual one-barrel intakes?—Jim A., Lexington, S.C.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PONTIAC DIVISION OF GENERAL MOTORS

Harley Earl's 1954 Pontiac Bonneville Special toured the GM Motorama circuit and came with a modified straight-eight Pontiac engine with four carbs.

A: Jim, I bought a 1951 Buick with the straight-eight inline engine in 1972, and in the trunk sat a two-one-barrel cast-iron intake, which I later sold with the car. This was a factory piece, as it had a GM part number on the intake, so I believe there has to be something out there.

I know GM did produce high-performance parts for this engine, because at age 6, my family and I saw noted GM designer Harley Earl's "Bonneville Special" concept car displayed at the Steel Pier in Atlantic City, N.J. It was equipped with a "Special-8" Pontiac inline, bored out with high-compression pistons and a high-lift cam.

Only two "Specials" were ever made, and both also had four Carter side-draft, single-barrel carburetors. Total output was the highest ever for the "straight eight," with an estimated 300-plus horsepower. Thus, we know GM made some speed parts for this engine, but the chance of your getting your hands on any is unlikely.

However, I spoke with my friends at Isky Cams in California, and there are two options available to you. Ed can re-grind a new cam for you, and Rod in the tech department said there may be some old high-performance stock in the backroom ready to go for your engine. Give Rod or Ed a call at 323-770-0930. For readers interested in Isky Cams, check out www.iskycams.com.

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Life & Style

One more time, buzz is all Britney's at VMA

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
AP MUSIC WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It took a year, but Britney Spears got the comeback she was seeking from the MTV Video Music Awards—and she didn't even have to sing or dance.

Spears nabbed three VMAs, including video of the year, erasing last year's career-low performance. Her first Moonman trophies came during a 25th anniversary show that otherwise lacked a defining moment, with most of the zaniness coming from host Russell Brand.

"Wow, thank you, I'm in shock right now. I was not expecting this," Spears, looking spectacular in a shimmering silver dress, said as she accepted her third trophy of the evening for "Piece of Me."

Spears kept all three of her acceptance speeches short.

"This is such an honor to have this award right now," she said. "I want to thank my fans, this is dedicated to you."

There was no such honor for Spears last year, when the declining diva—by then known more for her tabloid exploits and erratic behavior—kicked off the Las Vegas telecast. Looking haggard and dazed, Spears bumbled her way through a performance of "Gimme More" that gave new meaning to the phrase "Sin City."

Though Spears didn't perform this time, she still opened the show, giving a blink-and-you-missed-it introduction of Rihanna. Still, just being there was enough for a standing ovation from the star-studded crowd long before she opened her mouth to get things rolling.

Spears did provide a few laughs during a pre-taped comedic segment with "Superbad" actor Jonah Hill that preceded the live telecast. There were a few more laughs during comedian Brand's opening monologue, but the celeb audience seemed more nervous than amused, as the frenetic Brit took aim at Madonna, the virginity of teen sensations the Jonas Brothers and President George W. Bush, whom he called "a retarded cowboy fellow."

He clearly got under the skin of one celebrity, however, with his jokes about promise rings, which the Jonas Brothers wear to signify their virginity. Another famous promise-ring wearer, Jordin Sparks, said before giving out one award:

"I just wanna say, it's not bad to wear a promise ring because not every guy and a girl wants to be a slut, OK?" she quipped.

Afterward, a somewhat contrite Brand apologized to a stone-faced Jonas Brothers, saying, "I didn't mean to take it lightly" before adding, "a little sex once and a while never hurt anybody."

Though the VMAs have been defined by zany, wild moments in the past—the Michael and Lisa Marie kiss, the Britney-Madonna kiss, Prince's butt-out jeans just to name a few—there were more head-scratching moments than outrageous ones at the sprawling Paramount Studios lot.

The prim and proper Leona Lewis gave a graceful opening performance for a song by ... Lil Wayne, who appeared on stage barechested, displaying his tattooed torso as his pants hung below his buttocks (Ralph Lauren's underwear line got a nice plug, however). He performed hits "A Milli" and a song with T-Pain.

The Jonas Brothers performed a version of their song "Lovebug" that was so genteel one might have thought they were doing a tribute to the Osmonds. But the trio then segued to a rocked-out version of the song in the final moments, as a throng of screaming fans surrounded them on one of the movie's many sets.

Pink gave perhaps the show's most rousing performance, a pyrotechnic-fueled performance of her new song, "So What."

T.I.'s performance was also noteworthy, since the last time he was due to perform at an awards show, he was arrested instead. At last year's BET Hip-Hop Awards, he was accused of trying to buy machine guns and silencers (he was sentenced earlier this year to serve about a year in prison after completing at least 1,000 hours of community service).

He performed a new song with Rihanna, who also appeared on last year's show. But the dazzling singer from Barbados is hardly in need of any second chances, coming into the VMAs as one of music's hottest acts thanks to her two No. 1 hits of the summer, "Take a Bow" and "Disturbia."

Closing the night was Kanye West who, like Spears, was hoping for a second chance after a disappointing VMA experience last year. In Las Vegas, he had a Kanye-sized hissy fit backstage and vowed never to appear at the VMAs again after he didn't get a Moonman trophy despite several nominations.

This time, he had a stage all to himself, but he still may have reason to be miffed: he won no trophies during the ceremony, and, appearing after Spears accepted her third and final trophy of the evening, may have been more of an afterthought.

AP

Britney Spears poses with her awards backstage at the 2008 MTV Video Music Awards held at Paramount Pictures Studio Lot on Sunday, Sept. 7, 2008, in Los Angeles.

Review: Russell Brand hosts the VMAs with candor

By JAKE COYLE
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

AP

Paris Hilton appears on stage with host Russell Brand to present the award for best pop video at the 2008 MTV Video Music Awards held at Paramount Pictures Studio Lot on Sunday, Sept. 7, 2008, in Los Angeles.

Russell Brand seemed a little out of place as the host at the MTV Video Music Awards.

Not because he's British or relatively unknown in America, as most of the chatter was about before Sunday night's show from Los Angeles.

It was because Brand injected the VMAs with blunt politics, self deprecation, unabashed sexuality, and, yes, plenty of off-color remarks.

Didn't he know where he was? The VMAs? In La-La Land?

No, this was no place to voice anything like an opinion on world affairs or joke about young Christian pop stars. This is a place to look cool and thank the almighty for the honor of little moon man statuettes.

Early in his opening monologue, Brand pleaded: "Please, America, elect Barack Obama. On behalf of the world."

Most of the crowd, seemingly caught of guard, cheered, though at least a few pop stars didn't. The camera caught Britney Spears—who in 2003 said citizens should "just trust our president"—sitting quietly.

Partisanship, of course, can hurt sales. But Brand was refreshingly ignorant of many of the concerns that keep the lips of American pop stars zipped. For good measure—and surely stepping over the line—Brand referred to President Bush as "that retarded cowboy fellow."

After all, Brand has built his image on his candor and edginess. He's well-known across the pond as a standup comic, TV show host and radio DJ—but more so as an outlandish and hedonistic figure who speaks unabashedly about his prior drug and sex addictions.

Brand was a surprise choice as host for MTV for the 25th anniversary of the VMAs, and the gig was clearly meant to brighten his star in the U.S. After a supporting role in this spring's "Forgetting Sarah Marshall," he's got several prominent film roles in the works.

"I'm famous in the United Kingdom," he insisted, as a way to help explain himself and his rock star hairstyle. "My persona don't really work without fame. Without fame, this haircut could be mistaken for mental illness."

Sashaying around the stage in black leather, heeled shoes and snake skin scarf, Brand seemed to censor himself even less as the night wore on.

He frequently seemed baffled by young America pop culture. Introducing the stars of the upcoming film "Twilight," based on the vampire books, Brand exclaimed, "These books are bloody popular, these 'Twilight' books."

Again and again, Brand—a confessed former sex addict—poked fun at young sex and abstinence. Speaking of Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin's daughter's boyfriend and would-be father, Levi Johnston, Brand sympathized with him: "That is the safe sex message of all time. Use a condom or become a Republican!

Brand clearly angered some in attendance when he repeatedly joked about the Jonas Brothers, the sons of a pastor, all of whom wear purity rings as a symbol of their vow not to have premarital sex. At one point, Brand brandished one as if he had won it from a Jonas brother.

"American Idol" champ Jordin Sparks defended them: "I just wanna say, it's not bad to wear a promise ring because not every guy and a girl wants to be a slut, OK?"

Brand responded by apologizing, before slyly offending again by alluding to R. Kelly in an unprintable joke (like many of his).

Perhaps summing up his perspective, he explained, "A bit of sex occasionally never hurt anybody."

Brand surely won at least as many enemies as fans on Sunday night. But in contrast to some of the personality-less pop stars this "American Idol"-crazy country has been producing lately, an import was a welcome change.

Side events bring out celebs in advance of VMAs

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Though the MTV Video Music Awards are the main event in town this weekend, some celebrities are satisfied enough with the side activities connected to the extravaganza.

"I'm not going to go to the awards, but I'm going to some of the parties and stuff," said actress Taryn Manning as she picked up swag at the Verizon Wireless Samsung Style Villa, a gifting suite at the swank Thompson Hotel in Beverly Hills Saturday. "(There are) lot of creative people out, and lots of gifts, and all kinds of good stuff going on now."

Among those who turned out to get the good stuff were "The Hills'" star Audrina Patridge; Fonzworth Bentley; and members of Danity Kane. Tori Spelling was also at the suite with husband Dean McDermott and infant son Liam.

Spelling also said she wouldn't be attending this year's VMAs, citing parental duties.

"We have our family so we'll be at home watching," she said as she held Liam.

But she said she was looking forward to the appearance of Britney Spears, who was due to kick off the show.

"I think she'll be great, I'm a big fan of hers. You know she's a mom like me and it's a lot of work," she said.

Spelling also chimed in on the new "90210," the incarnation of her old show, "Beverly Hills, 90210," calling it "great."

"I totally watched, loved it. I think the fans are going to be totally happy."

When asked what she thought the biggest difference was between "90210" then and now, she quipped: "Better clothes. It was the '90s when we did it."

■■■

Rapper T.I., the self-proclaimed King of the South, held court on Saturday night as celebrities gathered at a swank restaurant for a dinner in his honor.

R&B singer Keyshia Cole, "House" star Omar Epps and actress Elise Neal were among those who dined at One Sunset Saturday night in Beverly Hills with T.I. The dinner was also for hit producer Nate "Danja" Hills, who has produced for the likes of Justin Timberlake, Britney Spears and Nelly Furtado.

T.I. is slated to be one of the performers at the VMAs.

AP

Actress Tori Spelling, left, and her husband Dean McDermott pose with their son Liam at the Verizon Wireless Samsung Style Villa at the Thompson Hotel in Bevely Hills, Calif., on Saturday, Sept. 6, 2008.

'Rent' to bring down the curtain on Broadway run

NEW YORK (AP)—Broadway prepared to say goodbye Sunday to "Rent," 12 years and 5,124 performances after it first became a rock musical with a message for theatergoers of all ages.

"There's mixed emotions, but it's time," said Allan S. Gordon, one of its producers.

The show, book, music and lyrics by Jonathan Larson, was born off-Broadway in triumph and tragedy. Larson died of an aortic aneurism after its final dress rehearsal in January 1996. He was 35.

"It was the most shocking thing," Gordon recalled. "I still can't believe Jonathan is dead. All you need is one (big hit), and he had that. I don't miss what he didn't write. I feel bad that he isn't here to enjoy what he did."

Larson's tale of free-spirited artists and street people in a gritty drug- and AIDS-plagued East Village of the early 1990s touched several generations.

AP

In this image released by Sony Pictures' Releasing, the cast of the Broadway musical "Rent" Will Chase, Michael McElroy, Eden Espinosa, Rodney Hicks are shown during a filming of the performance in New York.

Rave reviews propelled "Rent" to Broadway where the musical opened the following April at the Nederlander Theatre, a house often shunned by producers because it was on the wrong side of 42nd Street.

The show, inspired by Puccini's "La Boheme," found a ready-made audience in young people. Its fanatical supporters were nicknamed "Rentheads," and many of them saw the show after the musical instituted a same-day, front-row ticket price of $20. The plan proved so popular that it was changed to a lottery format to accommodate the demand.

Yet the show's fans were more than just young theatergoers.

"It's 80 percent the traditional audience," Gordon explained. "'Rent' was not defined by age. It attracted a wide spectrum of people. People of all ages love it. That's why it survived."

Survived and thrived - winning Tonys, Obies and the Pulitzer Prize for drama as well as grossing more than $280 million during its Broadway run. Millions more were made from national tours and foreign productions that performed on six continents. A film version, using much of the original cast, was released in 2005.

All Broadway shows have a finite life, a beginning and, no matter how successful, an end. Even "Cats" closed, and, one day, so will "The Phantom of the Opera." But what made "Rent" stand out and be embraced by so many people?

"In my mind, it's simply the message," said Gwen Stewart, a member of the original cast and the performer who got to sing the show's best known song, "Seasons of Love." Now she's back in the show again, getting to reprise the number for its last performances.

"'Rent' speaks to people's hearts," Stewart said. "There is a universal truth that I think everyone can identity with: Living today to the fullest because you don't know if tomorrow will be promised to you. Live. Love. Laugh. We have all gone through loss. Not necessarily AIDS-related, but everyone loses someone at some point."

Rodney Hicks, another original cast member, agrees.

"'Rent' is about love and learning how to love - under whatever circumstance," he said. "And learning how to accept that love. And loving unconditionally. The commonality in the show is the universal language of love that everyone can relate to. That's why the show has translated so well into other languages, into other countries."

Hicks, who first met Larson in 1995 when he was 21, had a small role in the original production and says he grew up with the show. Now he is back in the musical, in a bigger part, portraying Benjamin J. Coffin the landlord, the role originated by Taye Diggs.

"I had always wanted to play Benny," he recalled. "At the time, I looked like I was 14, 15 years old. When you are 21, you don't realize how young you actually look - or are. ... Now, at 34, I'm actually old enough to play the character."

Hicks said Sunday's closing gives the Broadway production "a feeling of completeness."

But it's not the end of "Rent," according to Gordon.

Another tour starts in January for some 30 weeks with several members of the original cast. Plus a new cinecast of "Rent," filmed in High-Definition video by Sony Pictures during the musical's last performances, will be shown in movie theaters in the United States and Canada for four days (Sept. 24-25 and Sept. 27-28). Check http://www.thehotticket.net/rent for locations.

"'Rent' is recorded for history, so it's not like it's disappearing off the map," Gordon said. "Hmmm, maybe I should bring back a revival next year."

Chris Brown writing songs for Britney, Rihanna

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Chris Brown was tied to two of the hottest women at the MTV Video Music Awards: Rihanna and Britney Spears.

Brown, who won best male video for "With You," wrote, "Disturbia," the song his rumored girlfriend Rihanna performed to open Sunday's show. The 19-year-old singer-songwriter is also crafting tunes Spears may record, he said.

"I actually wrote a couple songs for her now," Brown said, noting that Spears hadn't yet heard the new songs.

"We're on the same label, so all the executives heard the records and they love the records, so hopefully she'll cut it," he said. "But if she doesn't, oh well, we'll go back in the studio and still do some more records for her."

An in-demand collaborator, Brown appears on upcoming tracks by Nas and Ludacris.

Multi-network cancer telethon donations top $100M

NEW YORK (AP)—Spurred by an historic telethon Friday night, viewers stood up to cancer and pushed total donations for research to battle the disease past the $100 million mark.

That dollar figure reflects contributions from viewers of the telethon, "Stand Up to Cancer," as well as money raised since late May, when the Stand Up to Cancer initiative was launched, according to Lisa Paulsen, head of the Entertainment Industry Foundation, the charitable organization behind Stand Up to Cancer.

"One hundred percent of the more than $100 million raised will go directly to funding the research programs necessary to battle this insidious disease," said Paulsen in a statement Sunday that accompanied the announcement.

Research advocates and some 100 stars from music, sports, TV and film came together for Friday's live telethon, simulcast on ABC, CBS and NBC as well as cable's E! Entertainment channel, which provided the program to more than 170 nations and territories worldwide. Viewership figures for the program weren't immediately available.

Reminding the audience that cancer kills 550,000 Americans and six million people worldwide each year, the special was aimed at educating the public on cancer prevention and treatment, as well as raising funds to help fund research - in particular, "translational research," which encourages scientists to collaborate rather than compete, translating basic science into applicable therapies for patients with varying cancer afflictions.

Jack Black, Jennifer Aniston, Halle Berry and Keanu Reeves—along with presidential nominees John McCain and Barack Obama—were among the celebrities participating in the hourlong show aired from Los Angeles.

It featured musical segments by performers including James Taylor, Sheryl Crow, Josh Groban and Monica Mancini. Serving as co-emcees, rival network news anchors Katie Couric, Charles Gibson and Brian Williams discussed advances in cancer research. And sitcom star Brad Garrett underwent an on-the-air prostate exam.

Stand Up to Cancer said announcements are forthcoming on how research grants will be distributed. Meanwhile, fundraising will continue by various means, including the organization's Web site.

'Bangkok Dangerous' reaches No. 1 in slow weekend

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Nicolas Cage action-thriller "Bangkok Dangerous" needed just $7.8 million to take the top spot at the box office in what was the slowest movie weekend in seven years, according to studio estimates released Sunday.

The total weekend box office gross was expected to reach just $66 million, the lowest figure since the $59.5 million reported for the weekend of Sept. 21, 2001, according to Media by Numbers.

"We had no strong holdover from Labor Day Weekend to boost the box office," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of Media by Numbers.

"Bangkok Dangerous," a remake of a 1999 Asian movie that opened on 2,650 screens, performed within Lionsgate's expectations, said Steve Rothenberg, the studio's vice president of distribution.

"We're going to make a profit on it," he said. "We lucked out. No one was going against it."

Coming in second was "Tropic Thunder," the DreamWorks-Paramount combat comedy starring Ben Stiller, Jack Black and Robert Downey Jr. It earned $7.5 million in its fourth week of release, good for No. 2 after three weeks in the box office top spot. Its cumulative total is $96.8 million.

In third place was Sony/Columbia's frothy comedy "The House Bunny" with $5.9 million, giving it a cumulative total of $37 million after three weeks.

1. **"Bangkok Dangerous,"** $7.8 million.
2. **"Tropic Thunder,"** $7.5 million.
3. **"The House Bunny,"** $5.9 million.
4. **"The Dark Knight,"** $5.7 million.
5. **"Traitor,"** $4.7 million.
6. **"Babylon A.D.,"** $4 million.
7. **"Death Race,"** $3.6 million.
8. **"Disaster Movie,"** $3.3 million.
9. **"Mamma Mia,"** $2.7 million.
10. **"Pineapple Express,"** $2.4 million.

"It's a very nice hit for us," said Steve Elzer, senior vice president of media relations for Columbia Pictures.

Rounding out the top five films was "The Dark Knight," in fourth place with $5.7 million, and Overture Films' espionage drama "Traitor," with $4.7 million.

The weekend results brought "The Dark Knight's" cumulative total to $512 million, second only to "Titanic."

The slowdown in ticket sales is typical for September, which falls between the big summer blockbuster season and the period when studios begin rolling out offerings primed for Academy Award consideration. It also comes at a time when the fall TV season is just gearing up.

"The marketplace is definitely shifting gears," Dergarabedian said. "The attention is shifting to the small screen."

However, this week's low figures also represent the seventh consecutive weekend that the box office gross has been sliding as compared to a year ago. Dergarabedian blamed that on the economy, the national political conventions and the severe weather that has hit the Gulf states in recent weeks.

"We don't want that to turn into 10 weeks or more because that's not good for the health of the industry," he said.

Vin Diesel's sci-fi thriller "Babylon A.D." dropped from second place last weekend to sixth this weekend with $4 million in earnings. "Death Race," an action/adventure flick from Universal, grossed $3.6 million for seventh and Lionsgate's "Disaster Movie" spoof was eighth at $3.3 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Monday.

Malkovich gets mad in new film

TORONTO (AP)—The Coen brothers' new movie gave John Malkovich a chance to blow off some steam. Malkovich's seething character in "Burn After Reading" bursts out in perpetual tantrums, a nice exercise in anger management, according to the actor.

Malkovich

While he has not played explosive people that often in films, he has done many such roles on stage. It's great therapy for anyone with a temper, Malkovich said.

"I couldn't recommend it more highly," Malkovich said in an interview at the Toronto International Film Festival, where "Burn After Reading" played in advance of its theatrical release Friday.

"You can't really just go out on the street and scream. People think you're nuts. But what do you do? Where do you do it? How do you do that?" he said. "I guess if you have a heavy-bag, you could punch it, but the physical part is only one part of that. You could probably go into primal-scream therapy or something like that, but that takes a lot of time, and it's not really immediate, and it's slightly orchestrated."

In "Burn After Reading," Malkovich's Osborne Cox feels rage all the time. After a demotion, he quits his job as a CIA analyst in a huff, begins a hapless attempt to write his memoirs, is cuckolded by his wife (Tilda Swinton) and her lover (George Clooney), then winds up blackmailed by a couple of fitness club dimwits (Brad Pitt and Frances McDormand).

So he has plenty to be angry about, and Malkovich indulges the fury, bellowing profanity and lashing out in occasional violence - drawing some big laughs while he's at it.

"It's funny when people are upset. I think they're funny to watch, and probably me even more than other people...because I have such a bad temper, and there's something really funny about that," Malkovich said.

"(Now) I almost never lose my temper," he said. "Over the years, so much of it has melted away, but still the memory of it is there."

Malkovich, 54, stars in two other films playing the Toronto festival, which runs through Saturday. In "Disgrace," Malkovich plays a professor who ruins his career through an affair with a student and encounters turmoil in post-apartheid South Africa.

In the thriller "Afterwards," he's cast as a doom-saying doctor who claims he can foretell when people are going to die.

In October, Malkovich joins Angelina Jolie in Clint Eastwood's missing-child drama "Changeling," about a woman trying to discover what happened to her young son when police bring back another boy in his place.

Hendrix, Beatles, Elvis memorabilia sold

LONDON (AP)—A guitar set alight onstage by Jimi Hendrix during a concert in London was sold at auction on Thursday for $497,500 to a U.S. collector.

The scorched Fender Stratocaster was the star lot at an auction of music memorabilia that also included The Beatles' first contract and a gun permit application made out by Elvis Presley.

Specialist auction house The Fame Bureau said Hendrix's guitar, which he set alight during a concert at London's Astoria in March 1967, was purchased by enthusiast Daniel Boucher, from Boylston, Mass.

Boucher traveled to Britain especially for the sale, which saw around 250 lots put up for auction—suggesting the market in rock 'n' roll memorabilia is still booming despite economic gloom.

"I thought I'd have to pay a little bit more for it, actually. I am going to play it, I hope some of it rubs off on me," Boucher said, after successfully bidding for Hendrix's guitar.

Hendrix famously burned another guitar at the Monterey Pop festival in 1967, where the stunt was caught on film.

The Fame Bureau said the scorched guitar on sale Thursday was found last year at the home of a relative of Tony Garland, Hendrix's former press officer. It had been predicted to sell for up to $900,000.

AP
A gallery worker holds Jimmy Hendrix's 1965 Fender Stratocaster guitar during a presentation in London, Wednesday Sept. 3, 2008.

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Bangkok Dangerous
Friday 4:05 7:00 9:50
Saturday 1:00 4:05 7:00 9:50
Sunday 1:00 4:05 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:00
Nicolas Cage, Shahkrit Yamnarm
Action, Thriller, Sci-Fi • Rated R
Synopsis
The life of Joe, an anonymous assassin, takes an unexpected turn when he travels to Thailand to complete a series of contract killings. Joe, a remorseless hitman, is in Bangkok to execute four enemies of a ruthless crime boss named Surat. He hires Kong, a street punk and pickpocket, to run errands for him with the intention of covering his tracks by killing him at the end of the assignment. Strangely, Joe, the ultimate lone wolf, finds himself mentoring the young man instead whilst simultaneously being drawn into a tentative romance with a local shop girl.

★ ★ ★

Babylon A.D.
Friday 4:00 7:10 9:35
Saturday 1:15 4:00 7:10 9:35
Sunday 1:15 4:00 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:10
Vin Diesel, Michelle Yeoh
Drama, Thriller, Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
It is the not-too-distant future. Thousands of satellites scan, observe and monitor our every move. Much of the planet is a war zone; the rest, a collection of wretched way stations, teeming megalopolises, and vast wastelands punctuated by areas left radioactive from nuclear meltdowns. It is a world made for hardened warriors, one of whom, a mercenary known only as Toorop, lives by a simple survivor's code: kill or be killed. His latest assignment has him smuggling a young woman named Aurora from a convent in Kazakhstan to New York City.

Traitor
Friday 4:10 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:25
Don Cheadle, Guy Pearce
Drama, Thriller • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
When straight arrow FBI agent Roy Clayton heads up the investigation into a dangerous international conspiracy, all clues seem to lead back to former U.S. Special Operations officer, Samir Horn. A mysterious figure with a web of connections to terrorist organizations, Horn has a knack for emerging on the scene just as a major operation goes down. The inter-agency task force looking into the case meets with Carter, a veteran CIA contractor who seemingly has his own agenda and Max Archer, a fellow FBI agent.

Death Race
Friday 4:30 7:20 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:30 7:20 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:30 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:20
Jason Statham, Tyrese Gibson
Action, Thriller • Rated R

Mirrors
Friday 4:25 7:30 9:45
Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:30 9:45
Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:30
Kiefer Sutherland, Paula Patton
Thriller, Horror • Rated R

Tropic Thunder
Friday 4:20 7:15 10:00
Saturday 1:10 4:20 7:15 10:00
Sunday 1:10 4:20 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:15
Ben Stiller, Jack Black
Comedy • Rated R

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor
Friday 4:15 7:05 9:30
Saturday 1:05 4:15 7:05 9:30
Sunday 1:05 4:15 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:05
Brendan Fraser, Jet Li
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

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Police: Gary Coleman hit man with truck in Utah

PAYSON, Utah (AP)—Actor Gary Coleman hit a pedestrian with his truck after arguing with him in a local bowling alley, police said.

Payson police Lt. Bill Wright said Colt Rushton and Coleman got into an argument in the early morning hours Saturday over pictures Rushton had taken of Coleman inside the bowling alley. He said the argument continued outside, and that Coleman hit Rushton and a car as he was backing out of a parking space.

Neither man was issued a citation, and Wright said it wasn't clear whether Coleman hit Rushton on purpose. He said neither man was giving authorities much information.

Coleman

"We're currently trying to sort through those issues," Wright told the Deseret News of Salt Lake City. "We've been able to establish there was an argument between the two, due to pictures Rushton wanted to take. He took some of Gary Coleman, and (Coleman) wasn't happy about it."

Rushton was taken to a hospital and treated for minor injuries and released.

Neither Coleman nor Rushton could be reached for comment Sunday. Neither had a listed phone number that could be found.

Wright told The Salt Lake Tribune there are "indications" that alcohol was a factor in the accident. He was unavailable for comment Sunday.

Coleman, who starred in the television sitcom "Diff'rent Strokes" from 1978 to 1986 as the character Arnold Jackson, pleaded no contest in California in 1999 to disturbing the peace after he punched an autograph-seeker he claimed insulted him.

Payson is 52 miles southeast of Salt Lake City.

Timberlake goes for 'Mr. Sexy Backwoods'

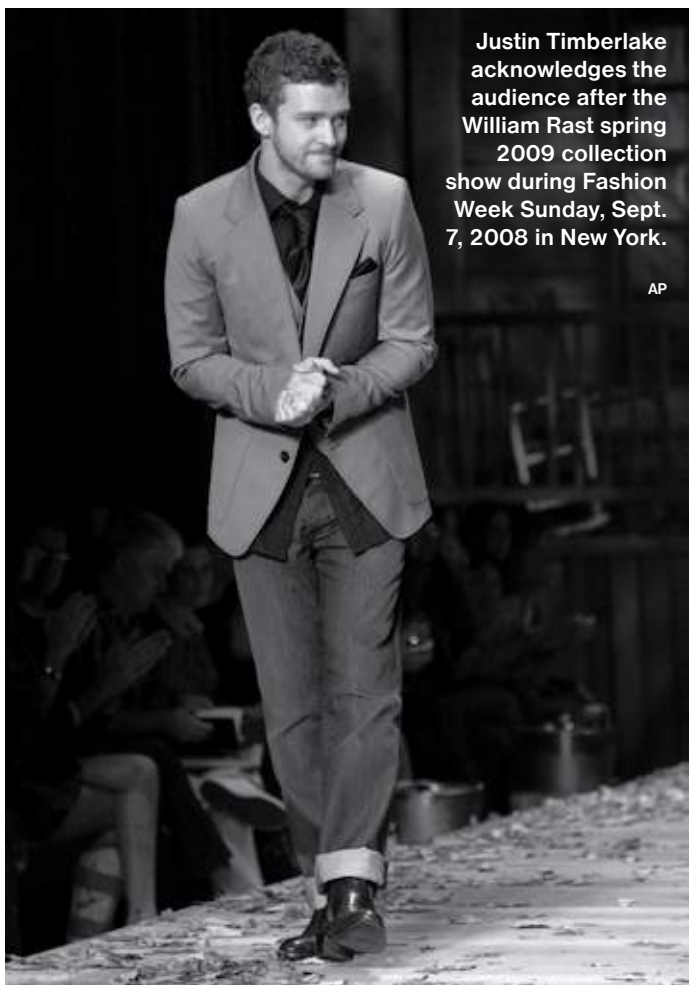
NEW YORK (AP)—Justin Timberlake is shaking his "Mr. Sexy Back" reputation for something more like "Mr. Sexy Backwoods."

Timberlake took an A-list New York Fashion Week crowd to Tennessee for his William Rast show on Sunday, treating the likes of Vogue editor Anna Wintour to buckets of Budweiser.

Jeremy Piven, Kevin Connolly and Emmanuelle Chriqui of HBO's "Entourage" were among those squished in the front row with Andy Samberg of "Saturday Night Live," model Rachel Hunter and actress Carla Gugino. The runway was set like an extended front porch to a run-down house, complete with a mounted deer head and the Tennessee state flag in the window.

Asked about his inspiration, Timberlake said, "It's a lot of stuff, but old Tennessee, new Tennessee—mostly Tennessee."

Timberlake has said he doesn't want to be known as "Mr. Sexy Back" forever, although he's not complaining about the attention.


Justin Timberlake acknowledges the audience after the William Rast spring 2009 collection show during Fashion Week Sunday, Sept. 7, 2008 in New York.

AP

"I don't want to be known for just one thing," he said backstage, nursing a cup of hot tea for a sore throat. "Maybe that's why I do so many things."

The William Rast spring collection, designed with Swedish designer Johan Lindeberg and his Italian wife, Marcella, was what Timberlake and partner Trace Ayala said they'd always been shooting for.

It was hard to imagine the celebrities wearing torn jeans and rolled up jean shorts paired with leather and fringe—some of which looked more suited to the pages of Guns & Ammo than Vogue. But tailored leather jackets looked more refined, along with super-short, super-wide ties like the one Timberlake wore on the "Fashion Rocks" red carpet.

Timberlake also presented a movie-style trailer where he plays an outlaw character named William Rast—a combination of his and Ayala's grandfathers' names—as a promotion for the brand.

Dynamic duo Griffin, Rickles paired for Emmy show

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kathy Griffin, who shook up an Emmy ceremony last year with her rowdy acceptance speech, is bringing her act to this year's prime-time awards show. Griffin and Don Rickles, a comedian who's legendary for his combative style, will team up as presenters at the Sept. 21 ceremony airing on ABC, the TV academy says.

"As we near the telecast, there will be more sets of presenters that will surprise almost everyone," executive producer Ken Ehrlich said in a statement

Kristin Chenoweth and Neil Patrick Harris, who helped announce the Emmy nominations in July, will join again to present an award, the academy said Thursday.

Conan O'Brien of NBC's "Late Night," Christian Slater (NBC's upcoming "My Own Worst Enemy") and Kate Walsh (ABC's "Private Practice") also were included in the third set of presenters selected for the ceremony. Broadway star Chenoweth is a nominee for ABC's "Pushing Daisies," while Harris received a nod for CBS' "How I Met Your Mother." Don Rickles earned a nomination for HBO's "Mr. Warmth: The Don Rickles Project."

Griffin received a nod for "Kathy Griffin: My Life on the D-List" and another for the special "Kathy Griffin: Straight to Hell," both on Bravo.

Last year, Griffin joked about Jesus while accepting an Emmy Award for "My Life on the D-List" at the creative arts ceremony that precedes the main broadcast show. Reports of her remarks provoked criticism from some Christian groups.

This year's creative arts ceremony will be held Sept. 13 and air on E! as a two-hour special on Sept. 20.

Previously announced presenters for ABC's Emmy show include the stars of "Desperate Housewives," Tina Fey and Amy Poehler.

'40-Year-Old Virgin' actor faces new charges

VISTA, Calif. (AP)—Prosecutors have brought additional charges against Hollywood actor accused of stabbing his ex-girlfriend 20 times.

Shelley Malil, 43, who played a supporting role in "The 40-Year-Old Virgin," was charged Friday with residential burglary and assault with a deadly weapon for allegedly attacking a man who with Malil's ex-girlfriend, Kendra Beebe, on Aug. 10.

Prosecutors say that was the day Malil stabbed Beebe with two knives while chasing her in and around her San Marcos home as her two children slept.

A man with Beebe at the time grabbed one knife but Malil found another and continued the attack until a neighbor disarmed him, prosecutors said.

Malil previously pleaded not guilty to one count of attempted murder, with a special circumstance of premeditation and one count of personal use of a knife and inflicting great bodily injury. He faces life in prison if convicted.

During a Superior Court hearing Friday, a judge reduced his bail from $10 million to $3 million. Malil's attorney, Steve Meiser, argued that the higher figure was unreasonable and that his Indian-born client was not a flight risk.

Malil has been jailed since Aug. 11.

Beebe, 35, suffered deep wounds to her lungs and throat but prosecutors said she was expected to recover.

Malil played a co-worker, Haziz, to comedian Steve Carell's title character in "The 40-Year-Old Virgin." He has appeared on dozens of TV shows, including "NYPD Blue" and "Scrubs."

Ron Reagan, son of late president, back on radio

SEATTLE (AP)—Ron Reagan, the liberal son of the late President Ronald Reagan, is going back on the radio.

Starting Monday, "The Ron Reagan Show" is scheduled for live broadcast from Seattle's KPTK-AM, Monday through Friday, with national syndication through Air America Radio.

Reagan, 55, previously was host of a talk show on KIRO-AM in Seattle and was moderator of KPTK's Town Hall Forum, "We The People."

The Seattle resident also participated in Air America's coverage of the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minn.

Grandparents' tippling is causing couple concern

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My parents recently took my kids for a "day with Grandma and Grandpa." My children are 5 and 3. When they returned home, they were driven by one of my siblings with Grandma in tow. My sibling stated that he was the "designated driver."

My husband and I are extremely upset that my parents chose to drink when they had our children in their care, and so extensively that they needed someone else to get the children home safely. We'd like to discuss this with them and ask them not to consume alcohol when our children are with them. However, we are hesitant because of the conflict this may cause, and are concerned that they will feel that we're attacking them.

How should we approach this—or is it best not to express our concern?

VACILLATING IN ARIZONA

DEAR VACILLATING: Vacillate no more and stop worrying about the "conflict" speaking up might cause. As a parent, it is your ultimate responsibility to ensure the safety of your children. Unless you establish firm ground rules and can be absolutely sure that your children are cared for in a sober, responsible environment, your children should not be unsupervised around their grandparents. Anything less is child endangerment.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have been reading your column since I was in high school. Many of the topics you discuss have been very helpful. Now I have a question and thought you could give me some advice.

When a lady tries on clothes in the dressing room, but does not wish to buy them, should she leave them in the dressing room or put them back on the rack?

MELANIE FROM OKLAHOMA

DEAR MELANIE: The garments should be left in the dressing room, replaced neatly on the hangers on which they were displayed. Sadly, sometimes customers leave the clothing in a messy pile on the floor, which means the salesperson must then hang them up so they can be displayed again. Such thoughtlessness is tacky.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 23-year-old female and what you would call a "serial monogamist." I don't understand how I got this way, but I just love being in a relationship.

My curse is that I constantly wish to be back with my exes. I idealize the past and "forget" the negative things that made me cheat on or leave them.

I know that if I leave my current boyfriend, I'll just want to get back with him in the future. It's a weird, vicious cycle that causes me a lot of guilt and regret. How do I get over the past and appreciate the present?

MIXED UP IN BROOKLYN, N.Y.

DEAR MIXED UP: You may think you "love" being in a relationship, but it may be time to take a long, hard look at how you really feel about intimacy. It appears that every time you get close to a man you feel compelled to do something to destroy the romance. This boyfriend may—or may not -- be someone you'd like to spend the rest of your life with. But unless you understand what drives you to cheat on a partner or dump him, the pattern will continue to repeat itself. Counseling might give you insight, and I recommend it.

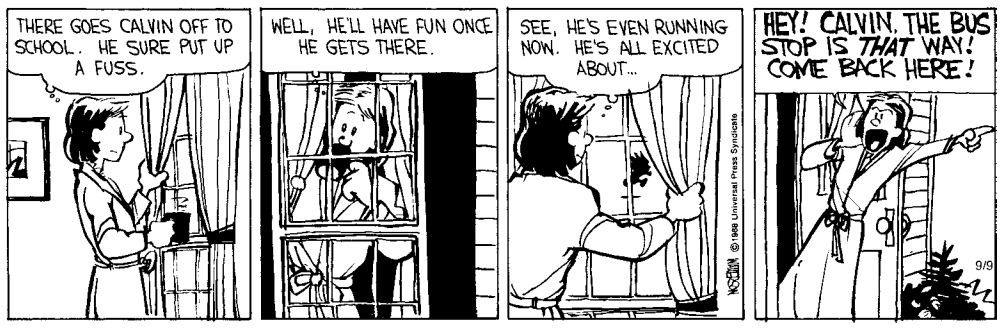
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


THERE GOES CALVIN OFF TO SCHOOL. HE SURE PUT UP A FUSS.
WELL, HE'LL HAVE FUN ONCE HE GETS THERE.
SEE, HE'S EVEN RUNNING NOW. HE'S ALL EXCITED ABOUT...
HEY! CALVIN, THE BUS STOP IS THAT WAY! COME BACK HERE!
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9/9

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

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OKAY
HE'S CHASING ME
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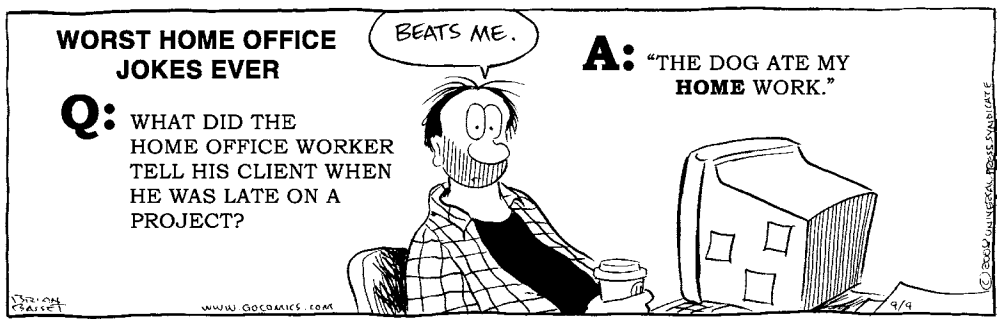
By Bryan Basset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Q: WHAT DID THE HOME OFFICE WORKER TELL HIS CLIENT WHEN HE WAS Llate ON A PROJECT?
BEATS ME.
A: "THE DOG ATE MY HOME WORK."
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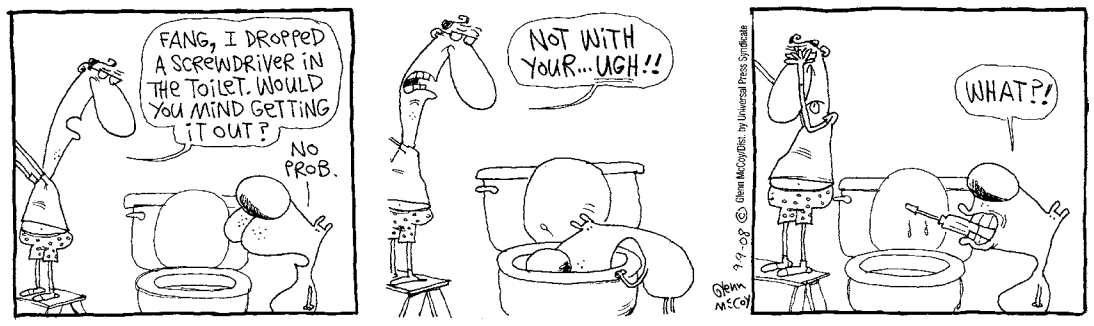
9/9

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


FANG, I DROPPED A SCREWDRIVER IN THE TOILET. WOULD YOU MIND GETTING IT OUT?
NO PROB.
NOT WITH YOUR... UGH!!
WHAT?!
9-9-08 © Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Wander
5 Alias abbr.
8 Wear a rut in the rug
12 Ford or Lincoln
13 Charged bit
14 Punch
15 South African city
17 Franc replacement
18 Deposit
19 Hansel and Gretel's trail
21 Subsequently
24 Acceptable
25 MRI forerunner
26 Brain's stimulus receptors
30 Felon's flight
31 Money
32 Conclude
33 Happiness, plus
35 Partner
36 Roof overhang
37 Long-popular comedian Cohen
38 High-pH chemical
41 Boar's companion
42 Cambodian money
43 Capital of British Columbia
48 "— It Romantic?"
49 Eggs
50 Fishing gear
51 Morse symbol
52 Sleep phenom
53 Dilbert's place

DOWN
1 Knock
2 "— Town"
3 Consumed
4 Multicolored
5 Ethereal
6 Japanese pond carp
7 Huge boa
8 False
9 Grad
10 Sidewalk edge
11 Hollywood clashers
16 Rowboat need
20 Colonial sewer
21 Wheel connector
22 Herr's wife
23 Pack down
24 Spirit in a bottle
26 Jeff Probst's show
27 Raise up
28 Busy with
29 Mideast gulf
31 Baby horse
34 Wellness
35 "Heavens!"
37 Witticism
38 Saharan
39 Sax-playing Simpson
40 Kesey and Olin
41 Con job
44 "— Got a Secret"
45 Caviar, essentially
46 11-Down counterparts
47 Request

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	W	E	■	L	I	A	R	S	■	S	O	S
S	H	E	■	A	N	N	O	Y	■	O	P	T
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■	■	■	C	S	I	■	E	B	B	I	N	G
M	A	S	K	E	D	■	S	O	R	T	■	■
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S	W	I	R	L	■	G	A	B	■	R	A	F
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E	D	O	■	O	N	I	C	E	■	U	R	I
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Yesterday's answer 9-9

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				16				■	17			
■	■	■	18			■	19	20				
21	22	23			■	24				■	■	■
25				■	26					27	28	29
30			■	31					■	32		
33			34					■	35			
■	■	■	36				■	37				
38	39	40				■	41			■	■	■
42				■	43	44				45	46	47
48				■	49			■	50			
51				■	52			■	53			

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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Michelle Williams, 28; Adam Sandler, 42; Hugh Grant, 48; Angela Cartwright, 56

Happy Birthday: Look on the bright side. Forget about what you cannot change and concentrate on what shows the most potential. Get serious about laughing and enjoying every moment, not worrying and fretting. It's attitude that will make your year ahead the best. Your numbers are 5, 13, 15, 22, 27, 31, 48

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Throw a little sunshine into the mix and keep things light even if you do feel pressured by someone or something. Simplicity, honor and fair play are all that's required. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Take things one step further. Don't be afraid to be a little different. This is a perfect time for you to visit a place that you may consider living some day. Reevaluate and set your game plan in motion. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't let your emotions lead you astray or cause you to jump too quickly from one thing to another. You have to stabilize your life not create more chaos. Older and younger family members may be a burden but you will eventually benefit. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Rely heavily on your trusted allies. You mustn't let anyone take advantage of you or play you for a fool. Show your strengths by staying one step ahead and making unlikely changes when least expected. The element of surprise will help you stay on top. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Do what you can but don't take on someone else's responsibilities. Protect your heart and your money from people who are looking for a free ride. Look for equality in all your relationships. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Get involved in something you deem worthy and expand your mind, talents and skills. Take on a challenge and you will excel, leading to a change in your outlook and your future. Someone from your past is still thinking about you. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't get caught in someone else's melodrama. Avoid arguments, especially those involving home, family and living conditions. Don't let anyone talk you into something you don't agree with. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You have plenty to offer and even more to get back by showing off a little today. Someone will have a change of plans once you reveal your intentions. A money opportunity is heading your direction. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You can mesmerize some but you cannot get those with experience to come on board if you aren't prepared. You'll be caught in your own game, so back off until you are sure of your plan and its execution. Focus on love and taking care of personal matters. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You will tend to get caught in an emotional dilemma and relationship worries. Hold off or you are likely to make a massive mistake that will have lasting results. Observe and keep a positive attitude. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't bank on others to do what you want. Instead, do what needs doing. Wasting time will not help your situation. Get your point out in the open and you will make an impression on someone who can help you out financially. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Take on a challenge and you will meet the demand. You have a chance to prove what you can do, so pull out all the stops and pull in all the favors you can muster. Before you know it, a new beginning will start to unfold. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are aggressive, serious and determined take action. You are not one to procrastinate. You want to encourage change while striving for perfection. You are a class act.

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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4		6	8			1	
5	2							7
			5					
1		3		2				
2			3	7	9			8
				4		7		2
					3			
6							9	3
	5			9	1		2	

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	9	2	5	6	1	8	7	4
1	5	4	7	8	2	9	3	6
6	8	7	4	9	3	5	2	1
9	1	3	8	4	5	2	6	7
7	4	5	1	2	6	3	8	9
8	2	6	9	3	7	4	1	5
4	6	9	3	1	8	7	5	2
2	7	8	6	5	4	1	9	3
5	3	1	2	7	9	6	4	8

Difficulty Level ★ 9/08

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CHILD PRODIGIES **Solution: 10 letters**

C	S	E	T	A	C	U	D	E	C	N	E	I	C	S
A	O	E	W	U	K	I	D	S	E	S	R	U	O	C
L	N	M	D	L	E	I	F	G	R	O	U	P	M	H
C	D	E	P	A	(G)	E	N	I	U	S	H	A	P	O
U	A	S	T	L	R	(I)	G	H	T	I	T	R	U	O
L	R	P	S	N	E	G	(F)	L	S	H	O	E	T	L
A	C	E	A	A	E	X	R	(T)	E	G	A	M	E	S
T	I	K	T	C	L	L	I	M	R	V	E	O	R	E
E	T	A	C	S	I	C	A	A	E	D	E	O	S	G
T	S	W	E	I	A	T	M	T	I	M	C	L	T	A
E	I	A	L	T	I	M	Y	C	S	L	O	B	U	U
L	R	R	E	C	I	O	I	M	U	N	D	R	D	G
H	U	D	S	N	U	N	A	B	I	L	I	T	Y	N
T	E	S	G	N	E	X	P	E	R	T	I	S	E	A
A	H	I	G	H	E	R	U	T	A	R	E	T	I	L

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Ability, Athlete, Awards, Bloomer, Calculate, Capacity, Class, Club, Complex, Computers, Courses, Educate, Exams, Expertise, Field, Games, Genius, Gift, Grades, Group, Heuristic, Higher, Kids, Languages, Level, Literature, Master, Mathematics, Medicine, Memory, Programming, Right, School, Science, Select, Sophisticated, Study, Talent, Young

Yesterday's Answer: Papaya

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Find today's solution in this section

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff,
NANCER W. MARTIN and JACINTA C. MARTIN, Defendants

CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0088

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant on an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 4, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 010 K 169, situated in Dandan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an are of 933 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 010 K 01 dated August 19, 1987, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 98-2012, the description therein being incorporated herein by this reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Wednesday, October 1, 2008, at the hour of 1:30p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obatained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 29th day of August, 2008

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE
Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff,
JEREMY M. MENDIOLA and AGNES ANN TEREYAMA MENDIOLA, Defendants

CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-257

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant on an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 4, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 026 K 48, situated in lower Dandan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an are of 816 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 026 K 03, dated December 15, 1992, Commonwealth Recorders's File No. 92-3822, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Wednesday, October 1, 2008, at the hour of 1:30p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obatained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 29th day of August, 2008

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE
Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff,
LUCINDA ROSA L. ROSARIO, Defendants

CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-422

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant on an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 4, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 011 G 1302, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an are of 931 square meters, more or less, as shown on DLS Check No. 011 G 24 dated December 9, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 96-2567, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Wednesday, October 1, 2008, at the hour of 1:30p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obatained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 29th day of August, 2008

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE
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235- NEWS

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Patriots overcome loss of Brady to beat Chiefs

FOXBOROUGH, Massachusetts (AP)—League MVP Tom Brady limped off the field to the horror of the New England Patriots while the unretired Brett Favre made a successful debut in leading the New York Jets to victory in the NFL on Sunday.

Brady hurt his left knee when he was tackled by safety Bernard Pollard midway through the first quarter against the Kansas City Chiefs. Without their star quarterback, the Patriots still won 17-10.

Last season, Brady set a NFL record with 50 touchdown passes, but it ended in disappointment with the Super Bowl loss that spoiled New England's bid for the perfect season.

Matt Cassel, who had thrown only 39 passes as Brady's backup for the past three seasons, took over and did surprisingly well, completing 13 of 18 passes for 152 yards and one touchdown. But New England needed solid defense at the end to keep the lead.

Damon Huard, playing after Chiefs quarterback Brodie Croyle left with a shoulder contusion late in the third quarter, completed a 68-yard pass to Devard Darling to the Patriots 5 with 53 seconds left. But they moved no further with two incompletions, a run for no gain by Larry Johnson, and a poorly aimed pass that fell to the ground wide of the end zone on fourth down.

AP

New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12) is helped off the field by medical personnel after he was hit while throwing the ball during the first quarter of their football game against the Kansas City Chiefs at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Mass., Sunday, Sept. 7, 2008.

Jets 20, Dolphins 14

At Miami, six months after Favre decided to call it a career in Green Bay before changing his mind, his new beginning had a happy ending thanks to two late stands by the Jets' defense. Dwight Lowery batted away a fourth-down pass in the end zone with 9 minutes left, and Darrelle Revis intercepted Miami quarterback Chad Pennington—again in the end zone—with 5 seconds left.

Favre finished 15-for-22 for 194 yards and his 161st victory, extending his NFL record for starting quarterbacks.

Panthers 26, Chargers 24

At San Diego, Jake Delhomme threw a 14-yard touchdown pass to tight end Dante Rosario as time expired, capping a desperation drive for Carolina's win.

After Philip Rivers rallied San Diego with his third TD pass, Delhomme moved the Panthers to the San Diego 14-yard line with 2 seconds left before calling his final timeout. Delhomme dropped back on fourth down and found Rosario in the back of the end zone and the offensive players mobbed each other behind the posts.

Cowboys 28, Browns 10

At Cleveland, Tony Romo completed 24 of 32 passes for 320 yards, Dallas' offense controlled the clock and strung together four long touchdown drives against Cleveland. The defense held one of the AFC's most potent offenses in check, and except for some silly penalties, the star-studded Cowboys had a dazzling debut.

Cardinals 23, 49ers 13

At San Francisco, Kurt Warner passed for 197 yards and led three monotonously effective drives in the second half for Arizona's win. Anquan Boldin had all of his eight catches for 82 yards in the second half of Arizona's third straight opener against the 49ers, whose long-woeful offense looked downright competent under new coordinator Mike Martz. But the Niners' offense barely got on the field in the second half.

Titans 17, Jaguars 10

At Nashville, Tennessee, the Titans sacked Jacksonville's David Garrard seven times and Cortland Finnegan intercepted him twice as Tennessee limited the depleted Jaguars to 187 yards offense, just 33 yards rushing by what was the NFL's second-best rushing team in 2007.

Steelers 38, Texans 17

At Pittsburgh, Willie Parker ran for 138 yards and three touchdowns and a near-perfect Ben Roethlisberger threw two scoring passes to Hines Ward in a Steelers rout that began with Houston's fourth-down failure on its opening possession.

Eagles 38, Rams 3

At Philadelphia, Donovan McNabb threw for 361 yards and three touchdowns, and DeSean Jackson, the first Eagles rookie wide receiver to start a season opener in 18 years, had six catches for 106 yards and returned a punt 60 yards to set up a field goal. Philadelphia played like a team that expects to make a championship run as the offense racked up 522 total yards and the defense was dominant against St. Louis.

Saints 24, Buccaneers 20

At New Orleans, Drew Brees passed for 343 yards and three touchdowns, giving fans already jubilant about the Saints' quick return from Hurricane Gustav a triumph to celebrate as well. Tampa Bay had a shot to win the brutally physical, back-and-forth contest until Scott Fujita intercepted Jeff Garcia's fourth-down pass just inside the Saints 20 with under 40 seconds to go.

Falcons 34, Lions 21

At Atlanta, Matt Ryan threw for a touchdown with his very first NFL pass, Michael Turner set a team rushing record of 220 yards in his Atlanta debut, and the Falcons were off and running. Detroit bickered among themselves on the sideline and showed again that a perfect record in the preseason is downright meaningless when the games actually count.

Bills 34, Seahawks 10

At Orchard Park, New York, Roscoe Parrish scored on a 63-yard punt return, and punter Brian Moorman completed a 19-yard touchdown pass to defensive end Ryan Denney on a fake field goal, sparking Buffalo to a dominating win over flat-footed Seattle. As if that wasn't enough, kicker Rian Lindell recovered a fumble on a kickoff, setting up another touchdown.

Ravens 17, Bengals 10

At Baltimore, the Ravens forced two turnovers and limited Cincinnati to 154 yards to make John Harbaugh a winner in his debut as a NFL coach. Cincinnati's Carson Palmer was outplayed by Baltimore rookie Joe Flacco, who ran for a 38-yard touchdown to put Baltimore up 17-3 in the third quarter and deftly operated within the careful attack deployed by Harbaugh and new offensive coordinator Cam Cameron.

Bears 29, Colts 13

At Indianapolis, rookie running back Matt Forte ran for 123 yards and one touchdown in his NFL debut, and Kyle Orton committed no turnovers to help Chicago beat Indianapolis in the first regular-season game at Lucas Oil Stadium.

Two-time league MVP Peyton Manning didn't look like himself in his first game action since having surgery to remove an infected bursa sac from his left knee in July.

And the loss snapped the Colts' 21-game winning streak in September and October, the longest streak since Green Bay won 23 straight pre-November games from 1928-32.

Top-ranked Nadal knocked off by Murray

NEW YORK (AP)—Rafael Nadal hunched over, his chest heaving, his hopes of reaching his first U.S. Open final fading fast. No one ever seems to run Nadal ragged. Andy Murray managed to do just that.

Exhibiting precisely the sort of winner-vaporizing, opponent-demoralizing defense new No. 1 Nadal usually employs, Murray reached his first Grand Slam final by completing a stunning, rain-interrupted 6-2, 7-6 (5), 4-6, 6-4 upset of the Spaniard on Sunday.

"He beat me because he was better than me," acknowledged Nadal, whose 19-match winning streak at major tournaments ended. "When he's playing aggressive, he can beat everybody."

Now, instead of a third consecutive Grand Slam final between Nadal and the man he replaced atop the rankings, Roger Federer, it will be Murray vs. Federer on Monday night.

Federer will be attempting to win his fifth consecutive U.S. Open championship and 13th Grand Slam title overall. And Murray? The 21-year-old Scot is trying to become the first British man to win a major tennis title since Fred Perry at the 1936 U.S. Open.

Get this, though: Murray owns a 2-1 career mark against Federer.

"He's got loads of experience in these situations, and it's something new for me," Murray said. "I know I'm going to have to play great to have a chance of winning, but I've played well the last couple of weeks."

The sixth-seeded Murray won the first two sets against Nadal and was down a break at 3-2 in the third in Louis Armstrong Stadium when play was suspended Saturday because of Tropical Storm Hanna. As should surprise no one, the generally indefatigable Nadal made a stand when they resumed things in Arthur Ashe Stadium on Sunday, taking the third set and going ahead 3-1 in the fourth after saving seven break points in one game.

"It was almost slipping away," Murray said.

But he took five of the last six games, twice breaking Nadal, who later said he "wasn't very fresh" and complained that the U.S. Open plays the men's semifinals the day before the final.

While they were exerting themselves, striding and sweating this way and that, the second-seeded Federer went through more-relaxed paces in a practice session Sunday. He managed to get through his semifinal before the rain arrived Saturday, beating Novak Djokovic in four sets for a 33rd consecutive victory at the U.S. Open.

After that match, Federer said he'd prefer to play Nadal in the final, mentioning his losses to his nemesis in the French Open and Wimbledon finals this year.

"I mean, I'd like to play Andy, as well, but obviously he hasn't been as good as Rafa for the past years, you know," Federer said Saturday. "But I'm sure he will be, you know, at the top of the game for a very long time, because I always thought Andy has incredible talent."

Murray entered his first major semifinal 0-5 against Nadal as professionals. Nadal, meanwhile, was hoping to become only the fourth man in the 40-year Open era to win three consecutive Grand Slam titles, joining Rod Laver, Pete Sampras and Federer. And while he did win the gold medal at the Beijing Olympics, Nadal has never had as much success on the hard courts of the U.S. Open as on the clay of Roland Garros or the grass of the All England Club.

While Murray's skills have been clear since he won the 2004 U.S. Open junior title, he knew he had work to do. With a new team of support staff since the end of last year, he's focused on improving the strength of his body and mind.

"I go on the court now without feeling like I have anything to worry about, because I've worked hard and practiced hard and given myself the best opportunity to play well," he said. "All I've got to do is play tennis, which is one of the few things that I'm good at."

He was great against Nadal, getting the better of long baseline exchanges and wearing him down. One smart strategy: Murray stood waaaaaaay back to return serves, sometimes 10 feet behind the baseline, in order to adjust to Nadal's heavy spin.

Villegas wins BMW Championship with clutch putts

ST. LOUIS (AP)—For three years, Camilo Villegas managed to make a name for himself without winning. He was the young Colombian with model good looks and chic clothing, limber enough to strike a pretzel-shaped pose on the green to read putts, earning him the nickname "Spider-Man."

Trouble was, not many of those putts went in.

That changed Sunday at the BMW Championship.

Clinging to a one-shot lead on the back nine at Bellerive, Villegas saved par with a 12-foot putt, followed that with two birdie putts and finished off a 2-under 68 for a wire-to-wire victory and his first PGA Tour title.

"It was a pretty good little stretch there that just tested my nerves and showed myself that I was good enough to stay out there," Villegas said.

Villegas pulled away from Jim Furyk, held off Anthony Kim and wound up winning by two shots over Dudley Hart, who birdied his final two holes for a 65. It was Hart's best finish in four years and it earned him two trips to Georgia—the Tour Championship in two weeks and the Masters next April.

With one playoff event remaining, the FedEx Cup essentially is over.

Vijay Singh, who won the first two events, tied for 44th and earned enough points that all he has to do is complete four rounds at the Tour Championship in two weeks to collect the $10 million payoff.

But the surly Singh didn't seem terribly grateful.

In a move that took some shine off the tour's new prize, Singh refused to speak to NBC Sports and walked briskly past a group of other media after finishing his round.

A marketing dream, Villegas gave golf fans a real reason to pay attention to him.

The 26-year-old from Medellin turned his fortunes Saturday after four-putting for double bogey that cost him the lead in the middle of the second round. He didn't have another three-putt the rest of the tournament.

"It rattled me in a good way, because I had been putting so good all week, and all of a sudden I four-putt," Villegas said. "But I looked at my caddie and said, 'Listen, man, let's don't let those two bad strokes get in our way.'"

And he didn't.

Villegas finished at finished at 15-under 265 and collected $1.26 million.

"It's awesome to be here," said Villegas, who wore a solid white outfit accented by a yellow belt and painter's cap. "Hopefully, it's the first of many."

Villegas had been building toward a moment like this in the last few months. He was near the lead going into the weekend at the British Open, rallied to finish fourth in the PGA Championship, then started the final round last week at the Deutsche Bank Championship one shot behind until faltering.

He had ample opportunity to let this one get away, too.

First came back-to-back bogeys on the front nine, losing the lead to Jim Furyk. But the real test came on the back nine, when Villegas found a bunker off the tee at the par-4 12th, laid up short of the green and hit wedge to 12 feet.

He sank the par putt to keep the lead, then seized control.

Furyk hit his tee shot into a bunker on the par-3 13th and made bogey, while Villegas took yet another aggressive line and holed a 10-foot birdie to build a three-shot lead. Then came a 35-foot birdie putt on the 14th that sent him on his way to victory at Bellerive.

Kim rallied late to get within two shots, but he sent his approach into the bleachers on the 18th and made bogey for a 67, leaving him a tie for third with Furyk, who shot 70.

"Camilo played great," Kim said. "He deserved it, made some key putts when it counted, and overall he just handled himself beautifully out there."

Villegas' appeal began two years ago at Doral when he finished in a tie for second behind Tiger Woods before a Miami crowd loaded with Hispanic fans. Then came his "Spider-Man" style of reading putts, contorting his body into a horizontal position to keep his eyes as close to the ground.

Endorsement deals and photo shoots followed, not to mention a strong following of females in his gallery. All he lacked was a PGA Tour trophy, which he earned over three days in a weather-plagued event.

Villegas went over $3 million in earnings for the year and likely will move into the top 20 in the world ranking.

And he still has a mathematical chance for the FedEx Cup.

He moved up to No. 2 in the standings, but even if he wins the Tour Championship and Singh finishes last, Villegas still would finish 101 points behind. His only hope is to win at East Lake and for Singh to withdraw or get disqualified.

The volatile points system introduced his year brought some fresh faces to East Lake for what once was the tour's All-Star game for the top 30 players on the money list. Among those who advanced to the final round of the playoffs were Kevin Sutherland, Ken Duke, Tim Clark, Bubba Watson and Hart, who moved up 53 spots to No. 14.

Hart saw that he was tied for third as he stood in the 18th green. He turned to his caddie and said if one person passed him, he was out of the top 30.

"I basically told him, 'Birdie or bogey.' I said, 'Let's try to give this thing a run,'" Hart said. "It was one of those things where I was going to give it a run and hit the best putt I could. And fortunately, it went in."

The final spot went to Chad Campbell, who got no points this week after withdrawing Saturday to fly home to Dallas after learning his wife went into labor. Dix Phillip Campbell was born later that evening.

Golf now goes dark next week—no PGA Tour events—before the Ryder Cup matches Sept. 19-21.

AP

Camilo Villegas, of Colombia, holds up the J.K. Wadley trophy after winning the BMW Championship golf tournament Sunday, Sept. 7, 2008, in St. Louis.

BMW Championship
Bellerive Country Club

Saunders returns to form as Angels beat White Sox 3-2 to avoid sweep

CHICAGO (AP)—Joe Saunders flashed his All-Star form while earning his first win in over a month as the Los Angeles Angels rallied to beat the Chicago White Sox 3-2 in the American League on Sunday, avoiding a three-game sweep.

The AL West-leading Angels moved a step closer to their fourth division title in five years, thanks to a solid effort by Saunders and a questionable decision by Jermaine Dye to catch pinch-hitter Garrett Anderson's sacrifice fly in foul territory in the eighth. The Angels hung on after blowing a three-run lead the previous night.

Tigers 7, Twins 5

At Minneapolis, Miguel Cabrera, Magglio Ordonez and Dusty Ryan homered to help Detroit win.

Ryan, a rookie catcher, hit a two-run homer in his first major league start. Chris Lambert (1-1) earned his first career win and the Tigers won consecutive games for the first time since Aug. 22-23.

Red Sox 7, Rangers 2

At Arlington, Texas David Ortiz hit his first home run in 20 games, Paul Byrd pitched 6 2-3 scoreless innings to win his fourth straight decision and Boston moved within 1 1/2 games of the AL East lead.

The Red Sox are the closest they've been to division-leading Tampa Bay since July 28. Six of their next nine games are against the skidding Rays, starting on Monday at Fenway Park.

Blue Jays 1, Rays 0

At Toronto, rookie David Purcey struck out seven in eight innings to help Toronto extend its winning streak to eight games, matching its longest run since April 1999.

Rod Barajas hit a second-inning sacrifice fly for Toronto.

Tampa Bay's Matt Garza (11-9) allowed one run and six hits in seven innings.

Mariners 5, Yankees 2

At Seattle, Jose Lopez enjoyed his first multihomer game as Seattle sent New York tumbling into fourth place in the AL East.

Lopez's liner just over the wall in left field off Mike Mussina (17-8) gave Seattle a 3-2 lead in the fourth, and added his 14th homer in the eighth off Jose Veras.

Mussina allowed four runs and seven hits and made a key error—his first in three years—in six innings.

Indians 3, Royals 1

At Kansas City, Missouri, Cliff Lee won his 10th straight decision for Cleveland, the longest winning streak in the majors this season.

Lee, who leads the majors with 21 wins, is 10-0 in 11 starts since a July 6 loss at Minnesota. In those 11 starts, Lee has a 1.84 ERA. He lowered his major league-leading ERA to 2.28.

Phillies 6, Mets 2
Mets 6, Phillies 3

At New York, Carlos Delgado hit two long homers and drove in four runs to back a big win by Johan Santana as the New York Mets beat the Philadelphia Phillies for a doubleheader split.

The National League East leaders salvaged the finale of the three-game series, giving them a two-game edge over second-place Philadelphia.

In the opener, Philadelphia's Jamie Moyer (13-7) allowed only two soft singles in seven shutout innings and Greg Dobbs hit a three-run homer off Pedro Martinez (5-4), who took the loss in Game 1, the makeup of Saturday's rainout.

In the second game, Santana (13-7) gave up two runs and five hits in 7 1-3 innings.

Padres 10, Brewers 1

At Milwaukee, Chris Young came within four outs of a perfect game, retiring the first 23 Milwaukee batters in order before Gabe Kapler homered, and San Diego beat the Brewers.

Chase Headley hit his ninth homer and Kevin Kouzmanoff hit his 21st for San Diego, which had 14 hits and broke the game open with five unearned runs off Manny Parra (10-7) in the third.

Reds 4, Cubs 3

At Cincinnati, Jolbert Cabrera hit a game-ending RBI single off Chicago closer Kerry Wood to complete Cincinnati's three-run, ninth-inning comeback.

Cabrera's single into left field gave Wood (4-4) his sixth blown save. The Cubs have lost seven of their last eight games.

Dodgers 5, Diamondbacks 3

At Los Angeles, James Loney had three RBIs and Los Angeles completed a three-game sweep of Arizona that gave them a 1 1/2-game lead on the Diamondbacks in the NL West.

The Diamondbacks have lost six of eight. On Aug. 29, they held a 4 1/2-game lead on Los Angeles.

The Dodgers tied a season best with their eighth straight win, following an eight-game skid. Hong Chih-kuo (5-2) pitched 1 1-3 innings of relief for the victory.

Cardinals 3, Mariners 1

At St. Louis, Albert Pujols hit a two-run home run and Adam Wainwright worked eight stingy innings in St. Louis' victory over Florida.

Mike Jacobs hit his 30th homer leading off the second, and Pujols hammered a 2-2 pitch from Josh Johnson (4-1) over the wall in left-center for a 2-0 lead.

Wainwright (9-3) allowed six hits and struck out six.

Astros 7, Rockies 5

At Denver, pinch-hitters Darin Erstad and David Newhan had back-to-back run-scoring hits in the eighth inning, lifting Houston over Colorado.

Erstad's bloop single tied it, and Newhan followed with a triple to center off Taylor Buchholz (6-5) to give Houston a 6-5 lead. Jose Castillo added a run-scoring single in the ninth and went 3-for-3 with two RBIs.

The Rockies, the defending NL champions, lost for the third time in four games. They entered the day 5 1/2 games back of NL West-leading Los Angeles.

Nationals 7, Braves 4, 14 innings

At Atlanta, Elijah Dukes hit a three-run double in the 14th inning and Washington beat Atlanta.

Dukes, who homered twice and went 4-for-5 in Saturday's 10-inning victory, was hitless in six at-bats before he faced Jeff Bennett in the 14th.

Giants 11, Pirates 6

At San Francisco, Pablo Sandoval finished with five RBIs and San Francisco rode a 10-run inning to a win over Pittsburgh, ensuring the Pirates of their record-tying 16th consecutive losing season.

San Francisco rapped out nine hits in its big fourth inning and took advantage of two errors to push across its most runs in a frame since it scored 10 in the second inning against Houston on Sept. 23, 2003.

Chalmers apologizes to Heat, NBA for rookie symposium banishment

MIAMI (AP)—A contrite Mario Chalmers spoke out about his banishment from the NBA's rookie symposium Friday, acknowledging that he made an error in judgment but denying numerous reports that he was using marijuana.

The Miami Heat rookie guard, who helped Kansas win the NCAA championship five months ago, released an apology through the team to several parties, including NBA commissioner David Stern, Heat owner Micky Arison, Heat president Pat Riley, Heat coach Erik Spoelstra and the Kansas basketball family.

Chalmers was sent home from the event Wednesday after security at the resort where the four-day session was taking place found Chalmers and former Kansas teammate Darrell Arthur in a room with two women, and security officials detected the scent of marijuana. No drugs or drug paraphernalia were found, but even having guests in the room broke NBA policies, and the two rookies were banished by Stern.

"Everyone who knows me knows I am a good person and I pride myself on doing the right thing," Chalmers said. "I am embarrassed this happened. I broke the rules, but I did not smoke marijuana."

Chalmers and Arthur will have to repeat the class, which discusses the challenges of making the transition from college to pro ball, next year. Both could be fined up to $20,000 and still may face a suspension at the start of the season.

SERENA

From Page 28

1 for a woman.

Her previous Grand Slam title came in January 2007, at the Australian Open.

For Jankovic, it was her first Grand Slam final anywhere, and she seemed to be having the time of her life. She smiled even after losing points, and she kept a close eye on the overhead video boards, either to watch replays or to check out which celebrities were in the audience.

Jankovic was ranked No. 1 for one week last month and would have returned there by winning a title match that was postponed from Saturday night because of Tropical Storm Hanna.

As good as the second-seeded Jankovic is at retrieving balls and extending points, Williams can do that with the best of them, too, leading to point after point lasting more than a dozen shots as both women scurried around Arthur Ashe Stadium, their sneakers squeaking loudly.

Both sent close-range shots directly at the other.

But the difference in strength was clear: Repeatedly after those lengthy exchanges, Jankovic was left shaking her racket hand, trying to lessen the sting. On the match's very first point, Williams drove a backhand winner with such force, such ferocity, that she sent one of her earrings flying.

The fourth-seeded Williams finished with 44 winners, 29 more than Jankovic, and smacked serves at up to 120 mph, a 14 mph edge over her opponent's fastest.

The finish was fantastic.

Williams somehow prolonged the second set after falling behind love-40 while serving and trailing 5-3.

Those three break points were set points for Jankovic, and Williams deleted each one, with a backhand winner, an overhead winner and then by forcing an errant backhand on a 10-stroke point. A 98 mph service winner left a frustrated Jankovic tossing her racket up in the air like a majorette's baton. When she sailed the next return long, Williams was at 5-4.

The next game was filled with as much drama as many a match.

Jankovic earned her fourth set point with an ace, then blew it by double-faulting.

Williams earned six break points and frittered away five. On No. 6, they produced a spectacular 22-stroke point that Williams ended with a forehand passing shot down the line.

As quickly as it once appeared things were getting away from Williams, she regained the lead. The next game featured more brilliant play by both, including a 24-stroke exchange Jankovic won with a forehand, and an 11-stroke point Williams took with a perfect stab volley.

Now up 6-5, four points from the title, Williams flexed her arm muscles and gritted her teeth. At the other end, four points from defeat, Jankovic went up to the bouncing ball and kicked it.

Serving to stay in it, Jankovic wasted a game point with a double-fault. Then she dropped a groundstroke into the net, presenting Williams with second match point. Williams converted, ending a 14-stroke point with a backhand winner.

Her father climbed out of his second-row seat to help celebrate, while her mother and Venus applauded in the guest box.

There were times when it looked as if that celebration wouldn't happen, even if one volley winner by Williams early in the second set left Jankovic sprawled on the court, doing the splits and then resting on her knees and covering her face.

To put it simply: Williams couldn't put Jankovic away.

The Serb hung tough in the second set, saving two break points at 1-0 and two more at 3-2. She also complained to the chair umpire that Williams was taking too long between points.

And suddenly, when Williams flubbed a drop shot, dumping it in the net, Jankovic broke for a 4-3 lead, then held to 5-3.

But Jankovic wouldn't win another game.

Williams wouldn't allow it.

SITCHON

From Page 28

really threw us back to shore," said Sitchon, who completed the 1.5-kilometer swim, 40-km bike, and 30-km run races in three hours and 57 seconds.

"I thought I will never make it in the beginning of the swim portion when I began to feel my arms and legs were cramping that early in the race, but then the water became a little calmer as we reached the deeper part of the ocean," he added.

Sitchon competed in the 50-54 age group and was in wave No. 10. The 1,111 participants in the Olympic-distance course were divided into waves with each group separated by five minutes before plunging into the water.

"The longer we waited for our turn, the higher the waves we have to face," Sitchon said.

The 2008 XTERRA Saipan Championships age group champion still finished the swim leg with a time of 35:15. He clocked 1:19.07 in the bike portion and 58:02 in the run leg.

Sitchon completed the race faster than his target of 3:30.00.

The 52-year-old triathlete said he almost made it to the three-hour barrier because of the early morning breeze. Sitchon is used to racing in high temperature here and found the cold weather in Los Angeles less tiring than Saipan's.

"Although I did not place in the Top 5 in my age group, I am happy to finish the race injury free," Sitchon said.

Sitchon placed No. 696 among 911 participants in the men's Olympic-distance event.

Australia's Greg Bennett ruled the men's Olympic-distance triathlon with a time of 1:46.04. He was the fastest in the swim (19:15) and bike (53:57) legs and second in the run portion (31:19).

Andy Potts timed in faster than Bennett in the run leg with 31:18, but was behind the swim (18:29) and bike (55:30) legs and in transitions to settle for second place with a total time of 1:46.47.

In third place was Paul Matthew (1:48.09), followed by Stuart Hayes (1:49.01) and Brent McMahon (1:49.17).

Becky Lavelle was the top finisher in the women's division posting 1:59.46, followed by Mary Beth Ellis (2:01.12), Julie Swail (2:03.10), Rebecah Wassner (2:03.44), and Brooke Davison (2:05.46).

STAAL

From Page 28

The 17-year-old Wong received another Triple A grade in the 200m individual medley swim when he clocked in at 2:19.60.

Seventeen other Tsunami swimmers participated in the time trial event last week.

Kensuke Kimura got Double A marks in the 200m and 50m breaststroke swims, clocking in at 3:04.57 and 40.44 seconds, respectively.

Kensuke's older brother, Shin, netted an A grade in the 50m freestyle, posting 28.67 seconds

An A grade is equal to 84 percent of NRT.

Cooper Graf also participated in two events, joining the 200m and 50m butterfly. His time of 2:43.88 in the longer race earned him a Double B mark, which is equal to 75 percent of NRT. The 16-year-old Graf recorded 32.06 seconds in the 50m butterfly swim.

Kaito Yanai received Double B grades in both the 100m freestyle and 50m butterfly swims, timing in at 1:24.4 and 46.87 seconds, respectively.

Kaisei Toda had a BB mark in the 50m free (37.07 seconds), B in the 200m free (2:57.38), and C in the 50m butterfly (52.63 seconds).

Marystar Welch also recorded a Double B in the 50m freestyle swim with her 34.47 seconds. She swam in the 200m individual medley, but got only a B mark after timing in at 3:07.44.

Other Tsunami swimmers received B and C marks in the club's first time trial this fall season.

A B mark is equivalent to 68 percent of NRT.

PTI

From Page 28

sixth for the win.

Choll Aces dropped to solo seventh place with 4-3 while PTI quickly recovered from a bitter 10-11 defeat to Auel Auel in the previous Sunday.

Auel Auel won anew, eking past Man Amigos, 7-6 that created a two-way tie on top.

Both Auel Auel and Brotherhood have 6-1 cards.

PIC scored the day's biggest upset at the expense of Ready Mix, 9-4.

But despite the loss, Ready Mix still sports a better record with 4-2 in fifth spot while the victory improved PIC's record of 4-4 in eighth.

The other game in the men's division resulted to a forfeiture by a no-show Bombers' team, giving Haga-T its first win of the 12-team field tournament.

The loss was the Bombers' seventh in eight outings.

In the women's division, Sakudi prevailed with a lopsided 12-2 win over Atu-Asi. No available record of team standings as of presstime.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	85	56	.603	–
Boston	84	58	.592	1 1/2
Toronto	76	66	.535	9 1/2
New York	76	67	.531	10
Baltimore	63	78	.447	22

Central Division

Chicago	80	62	.563	–
Minnesota	78	65	.545	2
Cleveland	69	72	.489	10
Detroit	69	74	.483	11
Kansas City	61	81	.430	19

West Division

Los Angeles	86	56	.606	–
Texas	70	74	.486	17
Oakland	65	77	.458	21
Seattle	56	86	.394	30

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	80	63	.559	–
Philadelphia	78	65	.545	2
Florida	72	71	.503	8
Atlanta	62	82	.431	18 1/2
Washington	56	88	.389	2

Central Division

Chicago	86	57	.601	–
Milwaukee	82	61	.573	4
St. Louis	77	66	.538	9
Houston	76	67	.531	10
Cincinnati	64	79	.448	22
Pittsburgh	60	82	.423	25

West Division

Los Angeles	73	70	.510	–
Arizona	71	71	.500	1
Colorado	67	77	.465	6
San Francisco	62	80	.437	10
San Diego	55	88	.385	18

Sunday's Games

Cincinnati 4, Chicago Cubs 3
Washington 7, Atlanta 4, 14 innings
San Diego 10, Milwaukee 1
St. Louis 3, Florida 1
Philadelphia 6, N.Y. Mets 2, 1st game
N.Y. Mets 6, Philadelphia 3, 2nd game
Houston 7, Colorado 5
San Francisco 11, Pittsburgh 6
L.A. Dodgers 5, Arizona 3
Toronto 1, Tampa Bay 0
L.A. Angels 3, Chicago White Sox 2
Detroit 7, Minnesota 5
Cleveland 3, Kansas City 1
Boston 7, Texas 2
Seattle 5, N.Y. Yankees 2

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Jets	1	0	0	1.000	20	14
Buffalo	1	0	0	1.000	34	10
New England	1	0	0	1.000	17	10
Miami	0	1	0	.000	14	20

South

Tennessee	1	0	0	1.000	17	10
Houston	0	1	0	.000	17	38
Indianapolis	0	1	0	.000	13	29
Jacksonville	0	1	0	.000	10	17

North

Baltimore	1	0	0	1.000	17	10
Pittsburgh	1	0	0	1.000	38	17
Cincinnati	0	1	0	.000	10	17
Cleveland	0	1	0	.000	10	28

West

Denver	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Oakland	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Kansas City	0	1	0	.000	10	17
San Diego	0	1	0	.000	24	26

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

N.Y. Giants	1	0	0	1.000	16	7
Dallas	1	0	0	1.000	28	10
Philadelphia	1	0	0	1.000	38	3
Washington	0	1	0	.000	7	16

South

New Orleans	1	0	0	1.000	24	20
Atlanta	1	0	0	1.000	34	21
Carolina	1	0	0	1.000	26	24
Tampa Bay	0	1	0	.000	20	24

North

Chicago	1	0	0	1.000	29	13
Green Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Minnesota	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Detroit	0	1	0	.000	21	34

West

Arizona	1	0	0	1.000	23	13
San Francisco	0	1	0	.000	13	23
Seattle	0	1	0	.000	10	34
St. Louis	0	1	0	.000	3	38

Yesterday's Games

N.Y. Jets 20, Miami 14
Atlanta 34, Detroit 21
Pittsburgh 38, Houston 17
Buffalo 34, Seattle 10
Tennessee 17, Jacksonville 10
New Orleans 24, Tampa Bay 20
Baltimore 17, Cincinnati 10
New England 17, Kansas City 10
Philadelphia 38, St. Louis 3
Arizona 23, San Francisco 13
Carolina 26, San Diego 24
Dallas 28, Cleveland 10
Chicago 29, Indianapolis 13

BMW CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Scores Sunday from the BMW Championship, a US$7 million (4.9 million euro) U.S. PGA Tour event at 7,456-yard, par-70 Bellerive Country Club Course:

FINAL ROUND

Camilo Villegas	65-66-66-68	265
Dudley Hart	67-69-66-65	267
Jim Furyk	70-62-66-70	268
Anthony Kim	68-67-66-67	268
Stephen Ames	68-69-66-66	269
D.J. Trahan	71-63-68-67	269
K.J. Choi	70-68-64-67	269
Hunter Mahan	69-67-68-66	270
Tim Clark	67-68-66-69	270
Fredrik Jacobson	67-67-72-65	271
Steve Stricker	66-71-68-66	271
Aaron Baddeley	71-64-67-69	271
Ben Curtis	70-70-68-65	273
Trevor Immelman	69-67-70-67	273
Lucas Glover	68-68-69-68	273
Brian Gay	67-67-67-72	273
Ernie Els	68-72-66-68	274
Phil Mickelson	68-65-71-70	274
Justin Leonard	69-67-68-70	274
Sergio Garcia	68-68-69-70	275
Tommy Armour III	71-64-69-71	275
Steve Marino	69-69-70-68	276
Eric Axley	70-69-70-67	276
Billy Mayfair	73-67-67-69	276
Kevin Streelman	70-68-69-69	276
Dean Wilson	69-71-66-70	276
Angel Cabrera	69-69-66-72	276
Geoff Ogilvy	69-71-67-70	277
Boo Weekley	71-65-71-70	277
Scott Verplank	73-69-68-67	277
Bart Bryant	69-68-69-71	277
Bubba Watson	73-73-66-65	277
J.B. Holmes	68-73-67-70	278
Ken Duke	70-72-67-69	278
Ben Crane	70-70-69-69	278
Carl Pettersson	72-70-70-66	278
Chez Reavie	67-70-75-66	278
Briny Baird	73-66-69-71	279
Mathew Goggin	70-71-67-71	279
Robert Allenby	71-68-68-72	279
Stuart Appleby	66-73-70-70	279
Tim Herron	66-71-67-75	279
Brian Davis	75-67-72-65	279
Andres Romero	66-70-73-71	280
Kenny Perry	66-72-68-74	280
Vijay Singh	70-70-71-69	280
Rory Sabbatini	72-66-67-75	280
Nicholas Thompson	70-73-70-67	280
Heath Slocum	71-73-70-66	280
Adam Scott	69-71-69-72	281
John Senden	69-73-73-66	281
Johnson Wagner	72-69-67-74	282
Jay Williamson	68-69-72-73	282
Jonathan Byrd	71-68-71-72	282
Kevin Sutherland	70-73-68-72	283
John Mallinger	71-65-75-72	283
Padraig Harrington	69-71-72-71	283
Brandt Snedeker	69-77-67-70	283
Martin Laird	69-70-76-68	283
Charley Hoffman	68-71-68-77	284
Jerry Kelly	74-66-73-71	284
Stewart Cink	73-70-71-70	284
John Merrick	76-74-65-69	284
Woody Austin	69-71-73-72	285
Charlie Wi	76-71-67-71	285
Mark Wilson	69-75-71-70	285
Mike Weir	69-72-71-75	287
Ryuji Imada	72-70-72-73	287

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

Belau Softball Standings

Brotherhood	6	1
Auel Auel	6	1
PTI	6	2
SAI-PAL	5	3
Ready Mix	4	2
Man Amigos	4	2
Choll Aces	4	3
PIC	4	4
Ngiwal	1	5
Haga-T	1	6
Bombers	1	7
Falcons	0	8

Hell of Marianas to kick off on Dec. 6

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

This year's Hell of the Marianas will be held on Dec. 6, giving riders about four months to train and cruise along the flat and hilly courses on the island before the grueling 100k race kicks off.

The Inaugural Hell of Marianas took place in October last year with Eli Torgeson finishing ahead of more than 50 riders, completing the race in three hours, 20 minutes, and 33 seconds.

Guam's Fred Gray and Derek Horton finished second and third with times of 3:23:59 and 3:25:50, respectively.

Susan Seay ruled the women's division, completing the race in 3:51:33, followed by Kimiko Hasegawa (4:28:46) and Mylene Garcia (5:17:09).

In the team categories, Last Minute Entry (4:13:02) and the Beezleburs Bikers (4:22:31) won the two and four-person competitions, respectively.

Jack Kabiriel prevailed in the shorter 50km race, posting 1:47:35.

This year's Hell of Marianas will not hold competition in the 50km race and instead will have the 100km individual event divided into two divisions, namely the road and mountain bike categories.

The race will still have team events with participants allow to compete in the two-person and four-man races.

"If one team member rides a road bike, then the team entry must fall under the road bike category. We will endeavor to provide different medals for each individual mountain bike category, however winners in the mountain and road bike team categories will only be given medals for first, second, and third in both the men and women's divisions," said PIC's Kanae Quinn.

Cash prizes and other perks await winners in the individual race with the top finisher in the men's and women's division taking home $1,000 and a five-day, four-night stay for two at PIC Saipan. Second placer will get $350 and a two-day/one-night stay for two at PIC Guam, while the third finisher will win $250 and a two-day/one-night stay for two at PIC Saipan.

Meanwhile, PIC will be hosting a 50km race on Oct. 19 to familiarize riders on the Hell of the Marianas course.

The course will begin at PIC and end at the top of radar in As Matuis. Since this is a warm-up and informal race, support crew and aid stations will not be provided.

Riders who do not wish to ride back to PIC are asked to arrange for their own transportation from Radar Station to their final destination.

The 50km race will start at 6am.

For more information, contact Quinn at 234-7976, extension 5130 or email at kanaequinn@yahoo.com or Kieran Daly at gm@picsaipan.com.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Nate "The Snake" Hawley and two other riders pedal inside the PIC loop in San Antonio in last year's Hell of the Marianas. Hawley topped the 36-45 age group race, while Eli Torgeson was the overall winner.

MBA to host GCA in opener of '08 Private School V-ball

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Marianas Baptist Academy will host defending champion Grace Christian Academy in today's opening day of action in the 2008 Coalition of Private Schools Volleyball League.

The GCA Eagles and the MBA Stormz will meet at 3:30pm and extend their rivalry following last year's championship game in the high school division with the Eagles winning the title for three consecutive years.

The other participating teams for the high school division are Calvary Christian Academy, Mount Carmel School, Seventh Day Adventist, and the two teams (Blue and Green) from Saipan International School.

SIS has also entered two teams in the middle school division while the others are CCA, GCA, MCS, Saipan Community School, SDA, and Whispering Palms School.

A total of 14 games, six for high school division and eight for middle school will be played in different venues this week.

The other schedules for today's games have CCA hosting SIS-B (both divisions); WPS vs. SDA (middle school); SIS Green vs. MCS (both); and SCS vs. GCA (middle school).

Action will resume on Thursday Sept. 11 with CCA hosting MBA (H.S.), SDA vs. SIS-B (both), MCA vs. WPS (middle), SIS-G vs. GCA (both) and CCA vs. SCS (middle).

Each team will play a total of 12 games after two rounds for the high school division and 14 games each for middle school.

Elimination round games will end Oct. 23.

All games are scheduled to begin at 3:30pm with middle school to play first before the high school match-up.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Seventh Day Adventists' Kono Remiliik returns the ball during their title game against Whispering Palms in the junior varsity division of last year's Coalition of Private Schools Volleyball League.

20 fights slated for 'Rites of Passage 5' on Sept. 27

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Mixed martial arts fanatics will be treated to another action-packed night on Sept. 27 at the Trench Tech Gym in Afetnas.

Promoter Trench Tech Inc. announced that it is ready to hold the "Rites of Passages 5: Raging Warriors" featuring 20 young and up-and-coming warriors to show their stuff at the octagon cage.

Tickets are now on sale at selected locations: 670 Rocksteady Shop, Borderline, Trench Tech, and Hannam Market.

Tickets for "Rites of Passage 5: Raging Warriors" will be sold at $20 for all seating and it will be first-come, first-serve as far as seating arrangements are concerned.

Trench Tech founder and president Cuki Alvarez said the doors will be opened at 6pm. The opening bout will start at 7pm.

He earlier said the event caters to the first- or second-time fighter or fighters who have lost and are looking to redeem their performance and try to earn their way onto bigger more prestigious events.

"All interested fighters and teams are urged to sign up now in all weight classes. This is your opportunity to earn your 'right to pass' and a chance to participate in Trench Warz IV: The Annihilation set for Dec. 6."

He added that Pacific Xtreme Combat, or PXC, is looking for top talent from the CNMI in various weight classes for upcoming PXC events in Guam.

"Trench Tech is the only link to making it to "the big time" and a chance to fight and make big bucks in PXC! Therefore, Rites of Passage is the perfect opportunity and proving grounds to showcase your skills and prove yourself!"

MARK RABAGO
Trench Tech will hold "Rites of Passages 5: Raging Warriors" on Sept. 27 at the Trench Tech Gym in Afetnas.

MIFICPA's 'Bowling Fun Day' on Sunday

In our highly competitive world today when each one is pressured to work so hard to meet his own deadlines and own deliverables in order to ensure his own survival, it is heartwarming to see opportunities for group fun, teamwork, and unity.

Such is the spirit of "Bowling Fun Day" organized by Marianas Institute of CPAs and Accountants, or MIFICPA. The event also aims to provide relaxation and exercise to accountants who work seriously all day in their office table shuffling through papers or thumping on their computers.

The Bowling Fun Day is to be held on Sunday, Sept. 14, from 1pm to 6pm at Capital Bowling Center in Garapan.

MIFICPA wants to leave a legacy of caring for the needs of all accountants in the CNMI. To achieve this end, the group is inviting everyone, including non-members to attend the event. One more thing, MIFICPA will shoulder the bowling lane fee through the generosity of the organization's supporters.

"The message is, if you are an accountant who wants to have a breakaway then you are very much welcome to join the fun, fun, fun, super fun," the group said.

To be awarded at the end of the tournament are prizes for the winning teams and special prizes for accountant bowlers coming from the sponsors—PTI, Ernst & Young, Deloitte & Touche, Mr. Eli Arago, Jet Holdings Company, Century Insurance Company, Ltd., Shirley's Coffee Shop, and other sponsors to be announced during the game.

MIFICPA will be printing souvenir T-shirts for the event to be sold for only $5.

Interested players/participants should email their name and contact number to any of the following: MIFICPA president Irene Santiago at irene_saipan@yahoo.com; Marlon Estigoy at marlon@saipan.com; Rene Cariazo at rene_cariazo@cicspn.com; or to Benjie Ganapain at bhnjit@yahoo.com. They can also call Lois at 235-9322.

All entries must be submitted on or before September 12, cut-off date. ***(MIFICPA)***

Hell of Marianas to kick off on Dec. 6

This year's Hell of the Marianas will be held on Dec. 6, giving riders about four months to train and cruise along the flat and hilly courses on the island before the grueling 100k race kicks off.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Patriots overcome loss of Brady to beat Chiefs

League MVP Tom Brady limped off the field to the horror of the New England Patriots while the unretired Brett Favre made a successful debut in leading the New York Jets to victory in the NFL on Sunday.

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Serena beats Jankovic for 3rd Open title

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP TENNIS WRITER

Serena Williams flung her racket straight up and jumped for joy, hopping and skipping and screaming and generally looking like someone who had just won her first U.S. Open title or earned her debut at No. 1 in the rankings.

Nope. It sure had been a while, though.

Displaying the talent and tenacity that helped her dominate tennis earlier in the decade, Williams outlasted Jelena Jankovic 6-4, 7-5 Sunday night in a thrill-a-minute match chock full of marvelous strokes and momentum swings to win her third U.S. Open championship and ninth Grand Slam title.

And there was this "added bonus," as Williams termed it: She returns to the top of the rankings.

As the women met at the net afterward, Williams felt compelled to say to Jankovic, "I'm sorry I got so excited."

No apology necessary.

Four times a single point from heading to a third set, Williams was simply relentless. She took the final four games and took the title without dropping a set. The closest she came to losing one? In the quarterfinals, when she beat older sister Venus in two tiebreakers.

On this night, Venus was in the guest box, cheering for Kid Sis.

"Serena was a better player tonight," Jankovic said. "She was just too good tonight."

It was Williams' first triumph at Flushing Meadows since 2002, and it guaranteed that the American will lead the rankings Monday for the first time since August 2003—the longest gap between stints at No.

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Serena Williams, of the United States, holds up her championship trophy after defeating Jelena Jankovic, of Serbia, to win the women's finals championship match at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Sunday, Sept. 7, 2008.

Staal

Staal nears 'T16' time in Tsunami time trial

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kai Staal moved closer to making it to the national reportable times (T16) when he clocked in at 26.67 seconds in the 50m freestyle during the Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan time trial Friday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

Staal's time received an AAAA ranking in the U.S. standard time. The Four A is the highest in the National Age Group Time progressions and is equivalent to 97 percent of the Top 16 National Reportable Times.

NRT or T16 represents a level that a swimmer must surpass to submit his name for consideration in the annual Top 16 list. The annual rankings are published in the *Swimming World* magazine and each qualifier receives certification from USA Swimming. Swimmers earning a NRT are in the Top 1 percent of the American Age Group swimmers.

The 13-year-old Staal also swam in the 200m individual medley, posting 2:32.77, which got an AA grade. A Double A level is equal to 87 percent of NRT.

Rezne Wong finished ahead of Staal in the 50m freestyle swim with the former, recording 26.06 seconds. But Wong's mark got only a Triple A grade based on his age group standard (16-18 years old).

A Triple A mark is equivalent to 93 percent of NRT.

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Sitchon survives scare in LA

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Manny Sitchon poses at the start of the 2008 Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Triathlon in Venice Beach last Sunday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan-based triathlete Manny Sitchon survived the big waves of Venice Beach to finish the Olympic-distance race in the 2008 Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Triathlon Sunday.

"The big waves of the Venice Beach gave me the biggest lashing I've ever experienced in open water swimming. The waves were sometimes as high as 20 feet, and they

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PTI bounces back as Auel Auel wins anew in Belau softball

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

PTI bounced back with a 12-8 victory over the Choll Aces last Sunday Sept. 7 to keep abreast with the early leaders in the men's division of the 2008 Belau Amateur Softball Association softball league at the Dandan Elementary School ball Field.

With the win, PTI remained in solo third place with 6-2 as it rallied back from a 0-6 deficit on top of the second inning to beat the Choll Aces.

Six batters reached home plate in the bottom of the first to give the Choll Aces the early lead but PTI leveled the count at 6-6 on top of the second.

Then the Choll Aces scored two more runs in the fourth but PTI easily recovered again with three runs in the fifth and another three in the

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NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Falcons' third batter aims against SAI-PAL's pitcher on the top of the first inning in their game Sunday in the 2008 Belau Amateur Softball League Association men's division at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield. SAI-PAL won this match, 9-5.